Happy Birthday
CHERRYON
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An
Afternoon Illusions
Project
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THE BIG O

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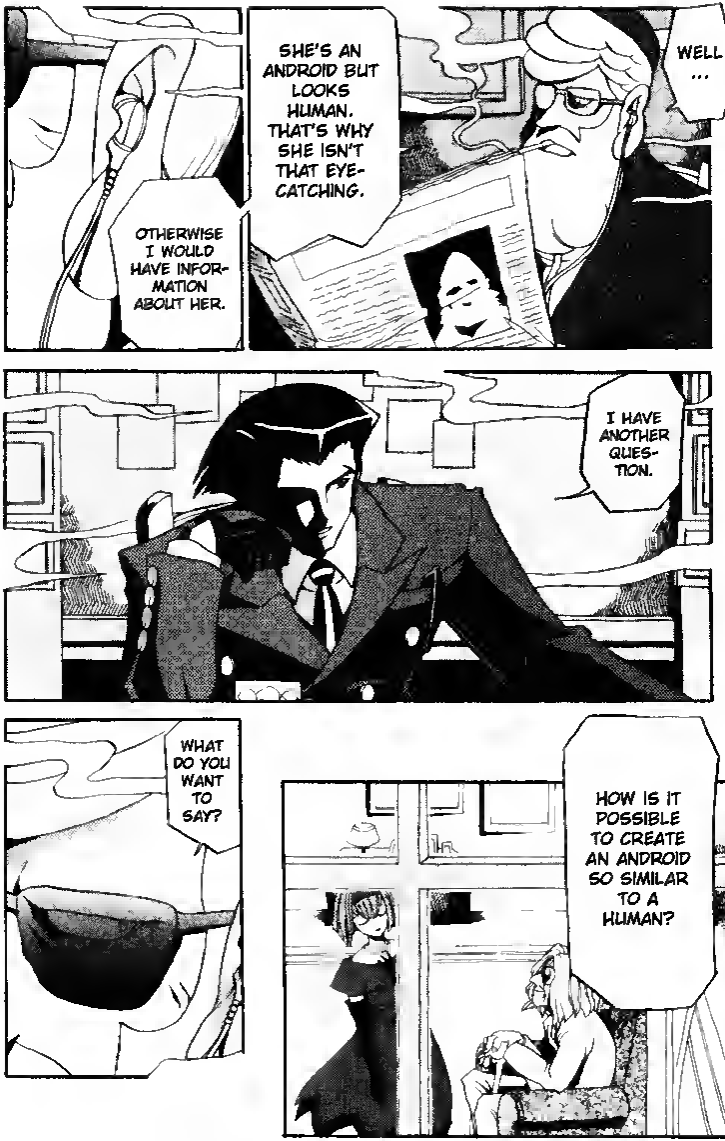
SCANS: Cleo
TRANSLATION & EDITING: Rion
PROOFREADING: Milkmaster
QC: KingFish

CHAPTER 4
DOROTHY PART 2

SKREEE
UNBELIEV-ABLE!
BAMM!
ROAR

BOMB
THIS THING MOVES ON...
BOMB
WHERE DOES IT GET ITS ENERGY FROM?

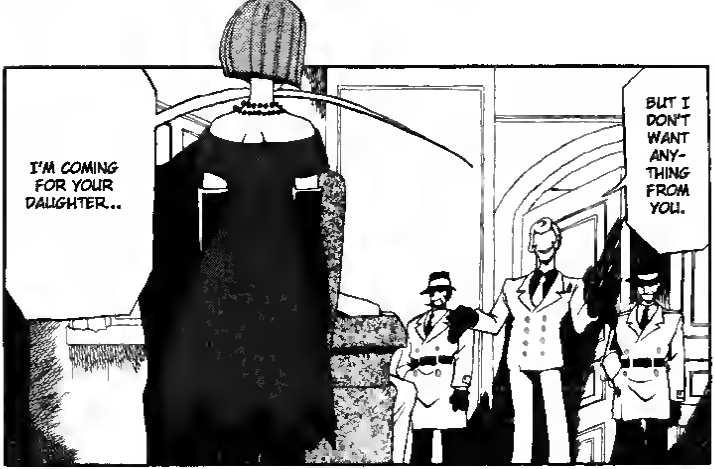
THAT WAS AMAZING!
DO-RO-THY...
CLAP CLAP
PLEASE SING AN-OTHER ONE.
SHE'S NOT WITH SOLDERNO. HE'S DEAD.
WHERE IS SHE HIDING THEN?

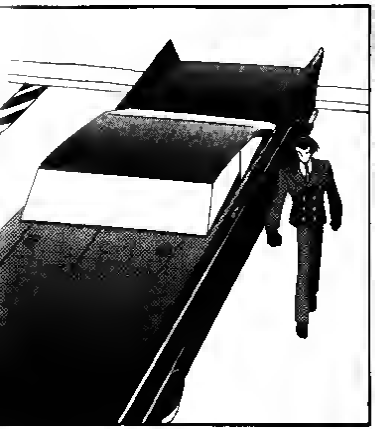

WELL ...
SHE'S AN ANDROID BUT LOOKS HUMAN. THAT'S WHY SHE ISN'T THAT EYE-CATCHING.
OTHERWISE I WOULD HAVE INFORMATION ABOUT HER.
I HAVE ANOTHER QUESTION.
WHAT DO YOU WANT TO SAY?
HOW IS IT POSSIBLE TO CREATE AN ANDROID SO SIMILAR TO A HUMAN?

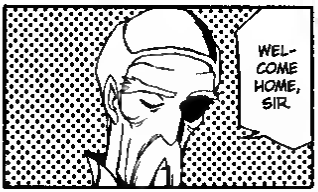
CONSIDERING OUR TECHNICAL STANDARDS, SOLDERNO MUST HAVE BEEN A GENIUS TO BE ABLE TO CREATE DOROTHY.
BUT CONSTRUCTION FILES ALONE AREN'T ENOUGH TO CREATE SUCH A PERFECT ANDROID AS DOROTHY...
SOLDERNO HAD IMPORTANT MEMORY FILES ABOUT THE CONSTRUCTION OF BIG MECHAS.
HE MUST HAVE GOTTEN SOMETHING ELSE TOO.
WHERE DID SOLDERNO GET THE MEMORY FILES?
MEMORY FILES...

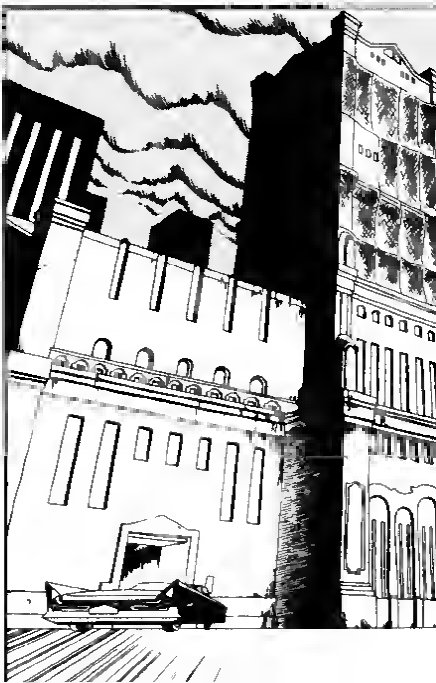
THERE'S A CONNECTION BETWEEN BECK AND SOLDERNO... BUT THAT'S ALL I KNOW.
FROM BECK.
ROSE BUD
A396
I'M GLAD YOUR DAUGHTER IS BACK.
HELLO PROFESSOR WAYNE-RIGHT.

WHAT DO YOU WANT ?
ISN'T SHE PERFECT ?
JUST LIKE YOU IMAG-INED HER TO BE.
WHAT DO YOU WANT, BECK? HAVEN'T I GIVEN YOU ENOUGH...
OH YEAH.
THANKS FOR THE CON-STRUCTION MAPS.


I'M COMING FOR YOUR DAUGHTER..
BUT I DON'T WANT ANY-THING FROM YOU.




WEL-COME HOME, SIR.



SOLDERNO HAD CONNECTIONS TO BECK...
AND BECK KIDNAPPED HIS "DAUGHTER" DOROTHY.
TAP
TAP
TAP
WELL ...
MISS DOROTHY IS STILL MISSING.
TAP
TAP
TAP
WAIT A MINUTE, PERHAPS SOLDERNO WAS KILLED BY BECK....
TAP
NO, THEN SOLDERNO WOULDN'T HAVE DIED.
DOES THAT MEAN, THOSE TWO...
ARE WORKING TOGETHER?
TAP
TAP
TAP
I SHOULDN'T HAVE GOTTEN INVOLVED WITH HIM...

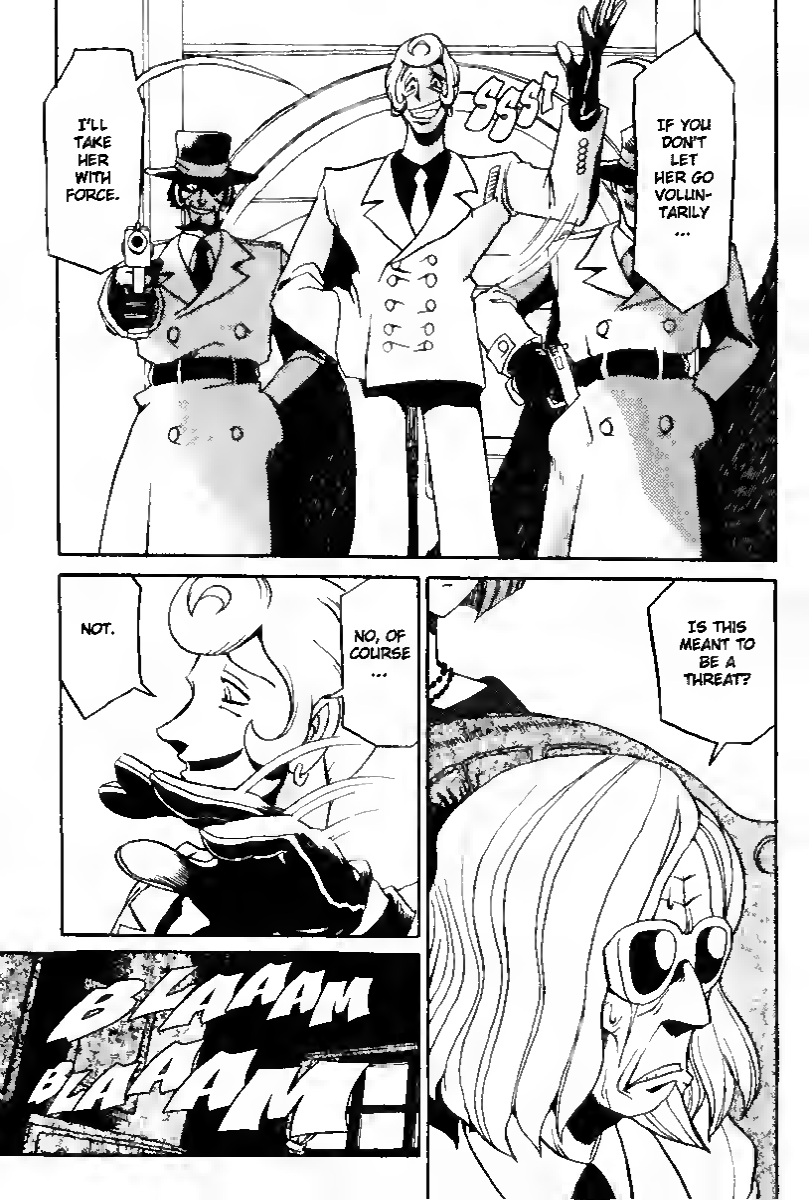
THEY WERE PART-NERS...
AND BECK BETRAYED HIM!

WHAT DO YOU PLAN TO DO RIGHT NOW, SIR?

HAS SOMETHING ON HIS MIND.
NORMAN, PREPARE BIG O. I'M SURE BECK...

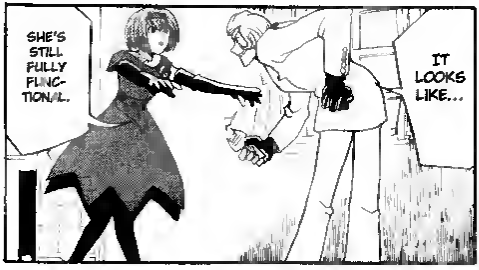
GWOOON
ALL RIGHT, SIR.
2
3

I JUST WANT TO BORROW HER FOR A WHILE...
IT WON'T TAKE LONG.
PHH!
THE INCIDENT IN DOME NO.5...
DO YOU THINK I DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT IT?
I WON'T GIVE YOU DOROTHY.
NEVER!

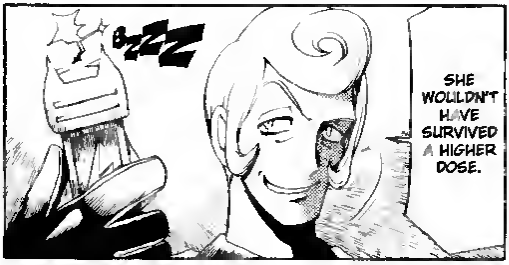

I'LL TAKE HER WITH FORCE.
SSS!
IF YOU DON'T LET HER GO VOLUNTARILY ...
NOT.
NO, OF COURSE ...
IS THIS MEANT TO BE A THREAT?
BLAAAM
BLAAAM!

...
FA-
THER!
HN-
GH..
AH!
KINK
DOD

BZZZ


SHE'S STILL FULLY FUNC-TIONAL.

IT LOOKS LIKE...
...


BZZZ
SHE WOULDN'T HAVE SURVIVED A HIGHER DOSE.

NOW I'M DONE WITH SOLDERNO AND YOU.
I'LL TAKE CARE OF DOROTHY.
THAT'S IT, WAYNE-RIGHT.

DON'T LET HER FALL DOWN.
SHE'S HEAVY ...
HAVE CALLED HER "DAUGHTER".
IT'S QUITE STRANGE THAT SOLDERNO AND WAYNERIGHT BOTH...
ALTHOUGH THEY SAY THAT THERE ARE THINGS THAT CANNOT BE BOUGHT WITH MONEY...
IT SEEMS THEY BOTH SUFFERED FROM A SORT OF "PARENTLY CARE"

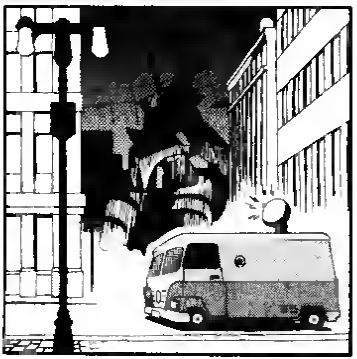
BUT...
I'LL BUY MYSELF LOVE AND HAPPI-NESS!
TIMOTHY WAYNE-RIGHT,
LIVING IN A COUNTRY HOUSE OUTSIDE THE CITY.

AND SHE REALLY CALLED HERSELF DOROTHY WAYNE-RIGHT?
YES
I NEVER FORGET THE NAME OF A GUEST.
IN WHOLE PARADIGM CITY, THERE IS ONLY ONE WAYNERIGHT.
I'LL GO THERE IMMEDI-ATELY.
!
OH NO.

I KNEW IT. WAYNE-RIGHT'S MEMORIES CAME BACK.
HE CREATED PLANS FOR TWO DORO-THYS.
WHAT ?
WHAT ARE THESE CON-STRUC-TION PLANS?

AND HE ALSO HAD CONTACT TO BECK....
ROAR

18



BLINK
BLINK
BUT ...
NOW THE VICTORY IS MINE!
BOMB
DAMN.
TSCHUNG
TSCHUNG
WHAT A SHITTY CONSTRUCTION!
IT SEEMS HE'LL NEVER GIVE UP...
BOMB

SHOW TIME!
BIG O...
RRMBRMBRMB
BROOM

MEGA-DEUS...
YOU AGAIN !
ACTION !
BIG O...

GRRR
GLOOM
BASH
KLING
SRRRG
SRRRG
DAMN.
THIS MACHINE IS STILL TOO WEAK.

GHOOO
!!
SWOO
KCH
KCH.
DAMN.

DO-
RO-
THY
!

THAT'S WHERE DOROTHY I GETS HER ENERGY FROM..
SHE'S USING DOROTHY II AS AN ENERGY SOURCE.
GRRR
ROMB
ROMB

DO YOU WANT TO DO, MEGA-DEUS?
CLACK CLACK
WHAT THE HELL...
DOOMMM
DORO-THY!
SHOUT

YOU REALLY ARE SIBLINGS...
YOU WERE CREATED BY THE SAME ENGINEER AND CONSTRUCTED BY THE SAME CONSTRUCTOR.
BUT...
OR EVEN MORE...
GYOOO
BRRR
BRRR
STOP!
AAH!

YOU HAVE TO LIVE YOUR OWN LIFE!
DORO-THY WAYNE-RIGHT!
BECK ...
SHIT.
THIS NEGOTI-ATOR AGAIN!
HE'LL PAY FOR THAT!

PUH, YOU'RE QUITE HEAVY,...
LITTLE DORO-THY.
I HAVE ...
PRO-TECTED YOU, LIKE I PRO-MISED.

WHY ARE YOU ALWAYS IN MY WAY,...
HM?
NEGO-TIATOR?
YOU KILLED SOLDERNO AND WAYNE-RIGHT...
IN ORDER TO GET THE TWO DORO-THYS.
BARAAN

YOU'VE BEEN GETTING ON MY NERVES FOR TOO LONG.
THIS WON'T HELP YOU ANYMORE.
KRACK
DIE!
...

WHAT?
BWAAAM
HNGH.

DA...
DA...
DAMN.
PAM!!
THE BUILDING IS SURROUNDED!

WE'LL LEAVE THE REST TO THE MILITARY POLICE.
AND TIMOTHY WAYNERIGHT WHO CREATED THE TWO DOROTHYS. I WONDER IF HE WOULD BE PROUD OF DOROTHY II THAT HE DESIGNED BASED ON HIS DEAD DAUGHTER.
MIGUEL SOLDERNO, WHO CONSTRUCTED THE TWO DOROTHYS AND CALLED THEM HIS "DAUGHTERS" ...
TIMOTHY WAYNERIGHT
MIGUEL SOLDERNO
AFTER DOROTHY HAD LOST HER TWO "FATHERS", WE LET HER STAY IN OUR HOUSE.

IS EVERY-THING OKAY, DOROTHY?
ROG-ER ...
YEAH?
SHOULD I PRAY ON YOUR GRAVE-STONE TOO?

YOU MUSTN'T ASK THESE KIND OF QUES-TIONS, DOROTHY.

THE BIG O

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TRANSLATION & EDITING: Rion
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CHAPTER 5
GHOST SHIPS AND FALLEN ANGELS

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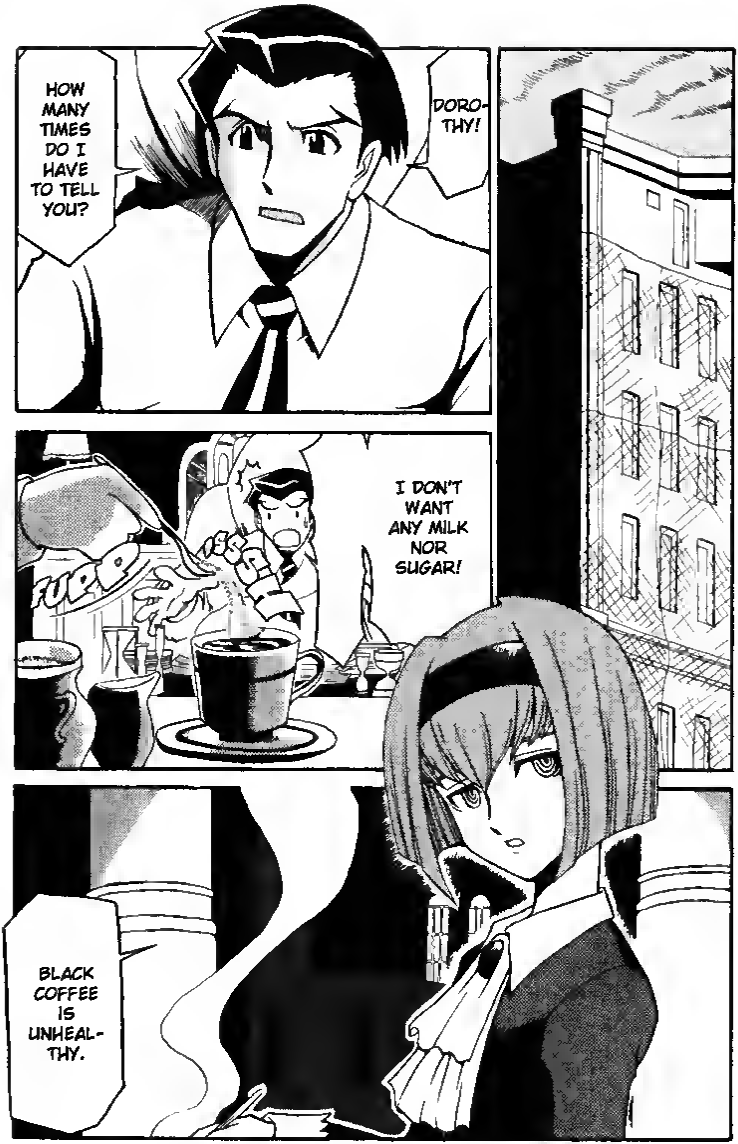
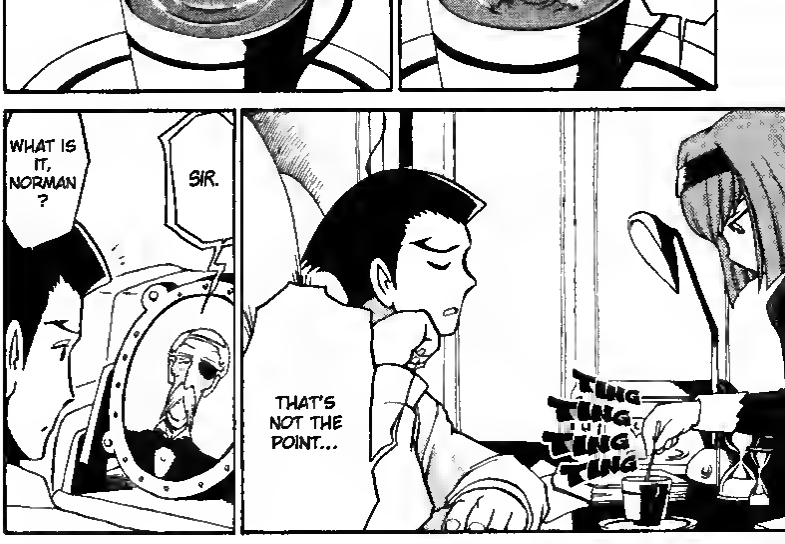
KRNK
SKRNK
FOOOOO
THERE IT IS AGAIN!
THE GHOST SHIP...


HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO TELL YOU?
DORO-THY!
I DON'T WANT ANY MILK NOR SUGAR!
FUUU
BLACK COFFEE IS UNHEAL-THY.

HUMANS TRANS-FORM SUGAR INTO ENERGY, ISN'T IT?
YES, BUT THAT DOESN'T GIVE YOU THE RIGHT TO PUT SUGAR IN MY COFFEE!

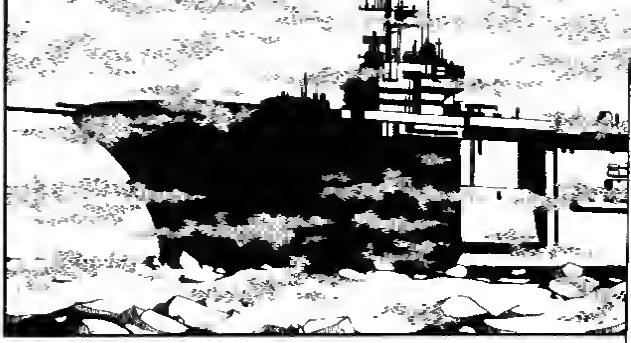
IF YOU STIR IT UP, IT DOES.
TING
TING
THIS MUCH SUGAR DOESN'T EVEN DIS-SOLVE.

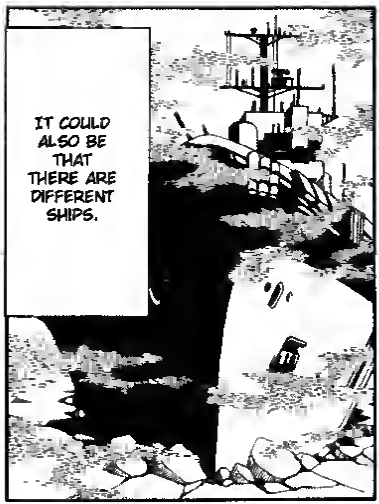

WHAT IS IT, NORMAN ?
SIR.
THAT'S NOT THE POINT...
TING TING TING TING

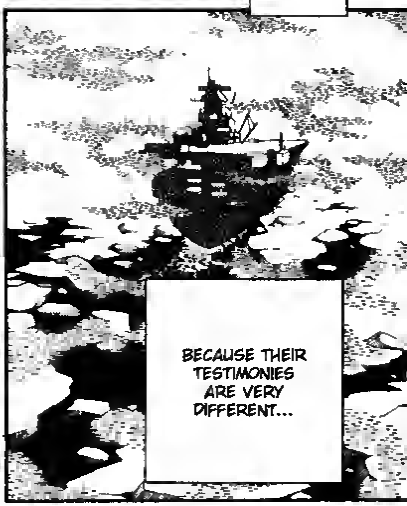
NEXT TIME I WANT MY COFFEE BLACK!
MAJOR DUSTON AWAITS YOU IN HIS OFFICE.
GOOD, TELL HIM I'M ON MY WAY.
HEADQUARTERS OF THE MILITARY POLICE.
WELL ...
DRING
DRRING
TO-DAY ...
EVERY-THING IS THE SAME HERE.
OKAY, FROM THE START ....
WHERE'S THE REIN-FORCE-MENT?
...

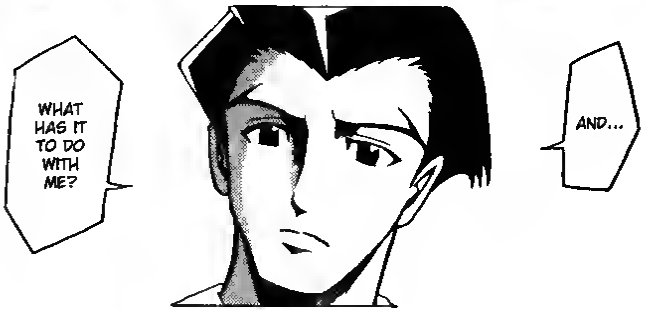
ROGER.
YOU FEEL AT HOME IMMEDIATELY, DON'T YOU?
WHY DID YOU CALL ME?
I THINK, ...
DRRRING
DRRRING
DRRRING
WE ARE DOING OUR BEST
THIS CASE IS RATHER YOUR TASK THAN OURS.
DRRRING
YES
HE'S ALREADY MISSING FOR 3 DAYS!
SORRY FOR TAKING SO LONG.

MY NAME IS KATHY JENKINS.
I'M AN ARCHEOLOGIST.
ROGER SMITH.
HOW CAN I HELP YOU?
WOW
IT'S ABOUT GHOST SHIPS,
MR. NEGOTIATOR.

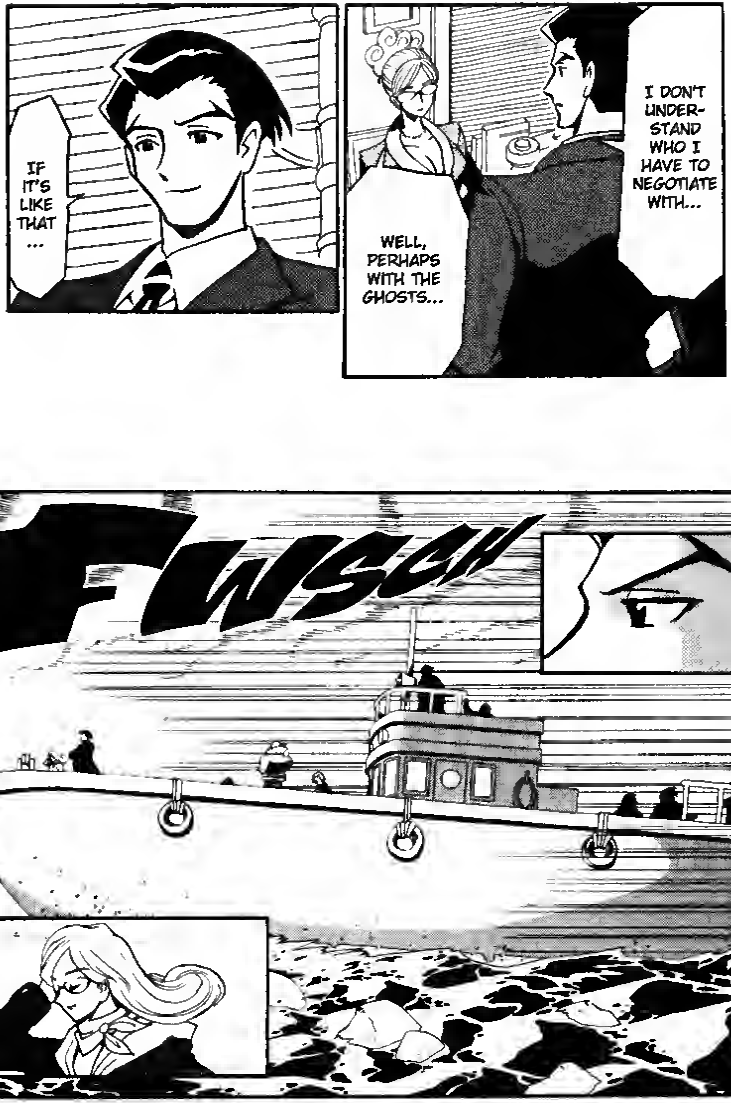

A FEW DAYS AGO PEOPLE SAW A SHIP IN THE PORT...

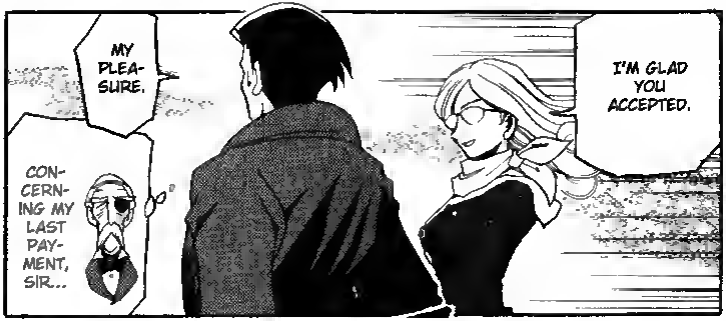

IT COULD ALSO BE THAT THERE ARE DIFFERENT SHIPS.

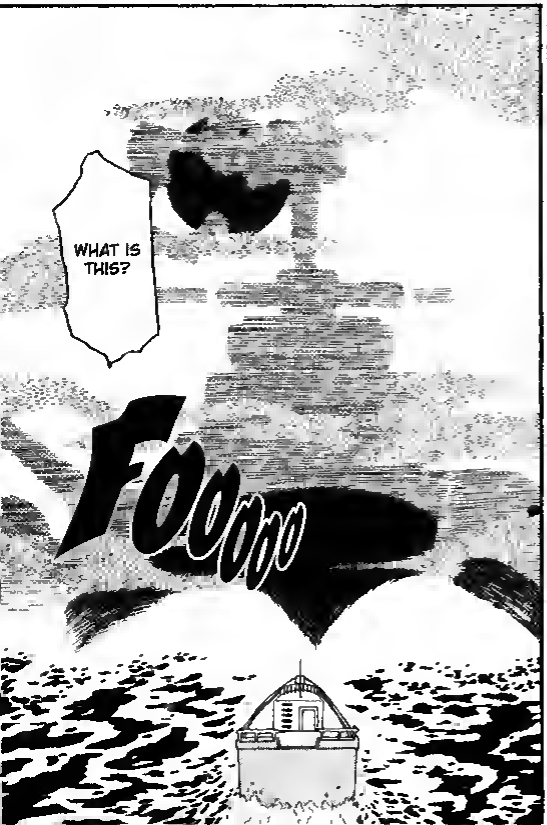

BECAUSE THEIR TESTIMONIES ARE VERY DIFFERENT...


WHAT HAS IT TO DO WITH ME?
AND...

I'M AN ARCHEOLOGIST AND DON'T BELIEVE IN GHOST SHIPS.
BUT IF THESE TESTIMONIES ARE RIGHT, IT'S A SHIP...
THAT GOT LOST 40 YEARS AGO.
THIS DISCOVERY WOULD BE UNBELIEVABLY PRECIOUS.
WHY DON'T YOU HIRE A PRIVATE DETECTIVE?
WELL, IT'S COMMON SENSE...
THAT YOU HAVE EXPERIENCE WITH SPECIAL CASES, MR. NEGOTIATOR.
THIS WOMAN COULD LET ROGER DO ANY JOB SHE WANTS...


IF IT'S LIKE THAT ...
WELL, PERHAPS WITH THE GHOSTS...
I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHO I HAVE TO NEGOTIATE WITH...
FWISCH


I'M GLAD YOU ACCEPTED.
MY PLEASURE.
CONCERNING MY LAST PAYMENT, SIR...


WHAT IS THIS?
Foooo

I DON'T KNOW IF I CAN HELP...
SHIP A-HEAD!
WHAT?

...
THIS THING IS HUGE...

!!
BLUSH
POSH
BOOM
SHUSH
WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT OUR NEGOTIATING CHANCES?
HUSH
FIRST WE HAVE TO CREATE A CLEAR SITUATION!

WOOH!
EVERY NEGOTIATING PARTNER REQUIRES ANOTHER STRATEGY...
DO YOU CALL THIS "NEGOTIATING"?
THAT'S A GOOD OPPORTUNITY!
ON THE SHIP, QUICKLY!
MISS KATHY!

...
BOOM
!!
THERE'S NOBODY HERE.
THEN KEEP SEARCH-ING!

GET OUT OF THERE!
WE HAVE TO ESCAPE.
BAAM
BAAM
I SEE.
AN-OTHER GHOST SHIP!
WHAT'S HAPPENING HERE...?

MISS KATHY ?
COULD IT BE THAT YOU'RE HIDING SOME-THING FROM ME...
KLICK
THAT'S DONE.
GOOD ...

BUUUSH
NOR-MAN!
EVERY-THING'S READY, SIR!
OKAY!
SHOW-TIME!
SHIP

SWUUUSH
WUUUSH
WHAT'S THIS?
SPLOOSH

BIG O IS NOW COMPLETELY WATER PROOF.
IN THE NAME OF GOD, MAY THOU
BIG O ...
I'LL HAVE TO THANK YOU AND NORMAN.
THAT ART WITHOUT SIN, BE GIVEN
ACHINE
ACTION!

GNNG
WA AA AA AA H!
BAASH
ZOOOM
GOOO
THE ARENA IS OPENED...
LET'S GO!

BOOM
BAAM
PUUSK
OO-
PS.

DOOSH
DOOSH
TAK
TAK
TAK
BAAM
BAAM
KHUUUM
BOOM
BOOM
WAAA
AAH!
PAH!
GHOSTS
...
THESE
SHIPS ARE
A GREAT
TARGET!

FOOO
ZOOM
BRRAUS
FWOSH
WHERE DO ALL THESE SHIPS COME FROM?
THEY'RE GETTING MORE AND MORE!

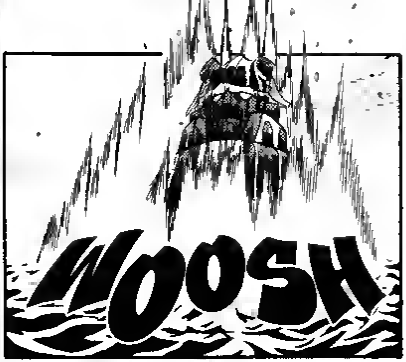
BOOM
BIG O WON'T STAND THIS ANY LONGER...
WOSH
WHAT IS THIS...
ZOOOH
HM? STRANGE MIST ANYWAY?
THIS MIST ...
THEORETI-CALLY THERE SHOULD BE...
A LOT OF SHIP WRECKS AROUND HERE!

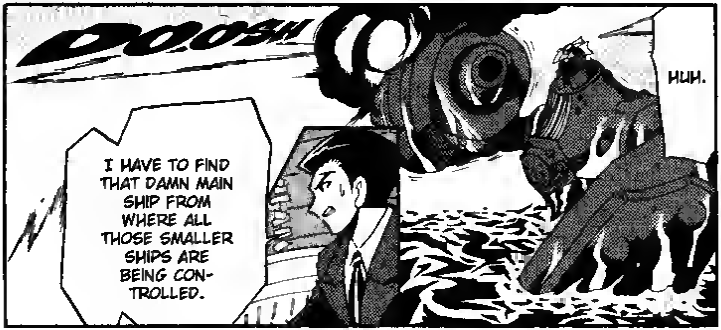
DOOM
NOW I SEE!
HE...
FOUND OUT.
SOME-BODY IS USING THE MIST...
AS A SCRE-EN.
THESE ARE HOLO-GRAMS...
OF SMALLER SHIPS.

NORMAN, HOW LARGE IS THIS MIST?
I HAVE TO THINK OF A NEW TACTIC...
SKRNGG
AN EVIL PLAN.
IT'S SPREADING ON AN AREA OF 8 KILOMETERS.
SO I WON'T GET OUT OF THE MIST THAT EASILY.
WELL THEN!
WOOSH
DUEEEN
GUNNN

ZUUUSH
GLUBB GLUBB GLUBB
DAMN!
BOOM
PINNNG
BOOM
BOOM!
PINNNG

SPLASH


WOOSH

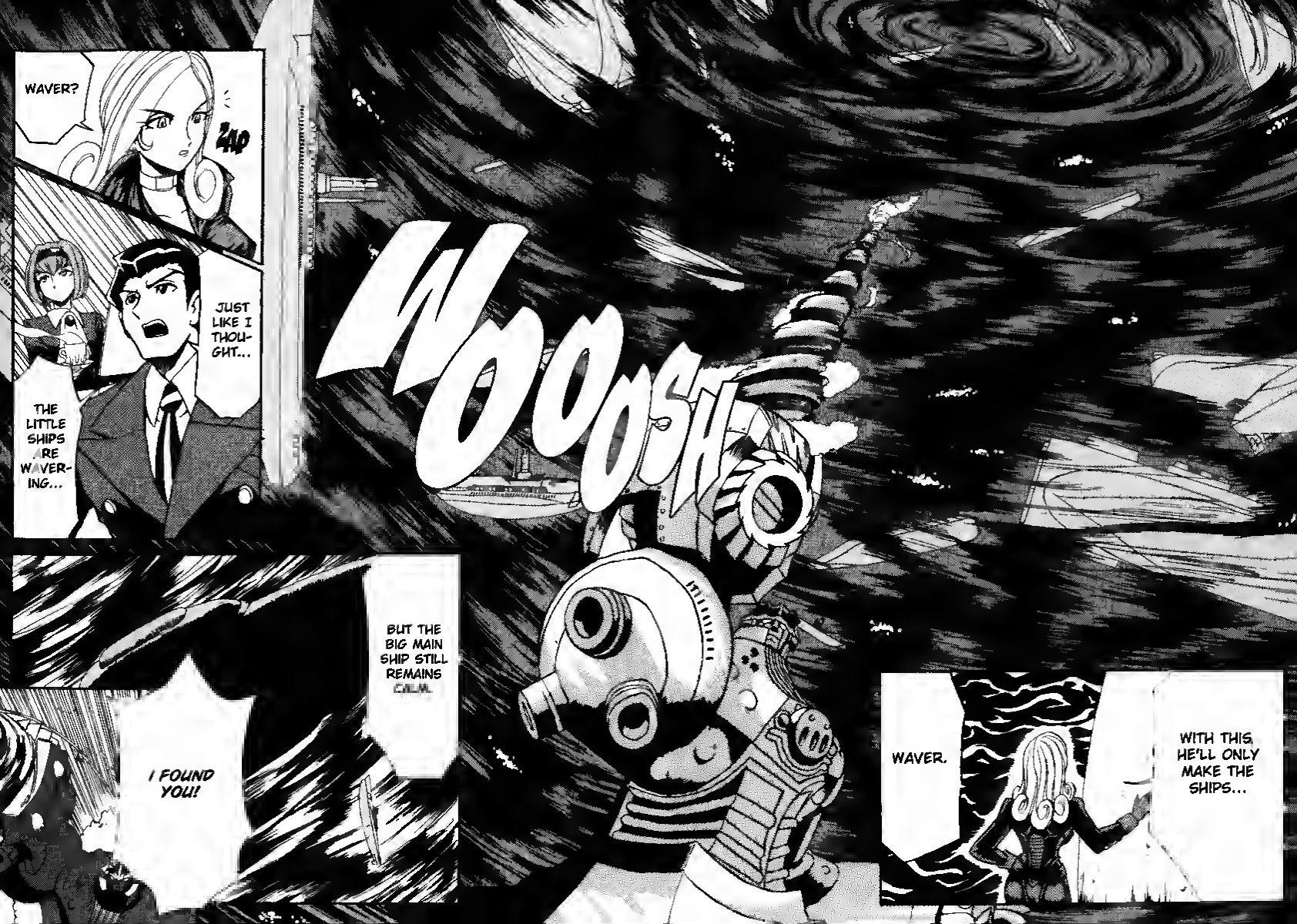

DOOSH
HUH.
I HAVE TO FIND THAT DAMN MAIN SHIP FROM WHERE ALL THOSE SMALLER SHIPS ARE BEING CONTROLLED.

YOU DON'T STAND ANY CHANCE AGAINST OUR SUPERIORITY.
WHAT DO YOU PLAN TO DO NOW, MEGADEUS?

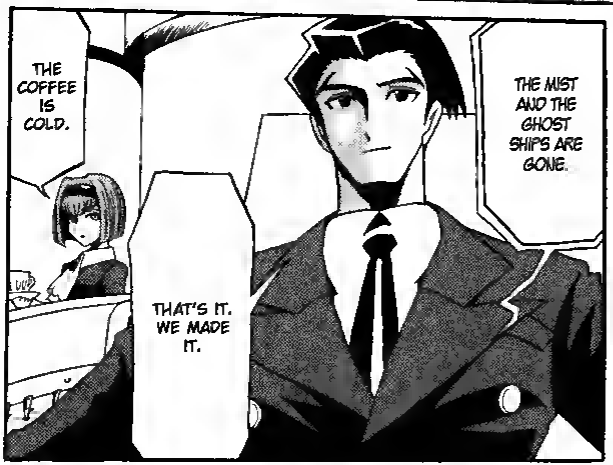
DO YOU HAVE A GOOD IDEA, DORO-THY?
ROGER.
ANY-MORE.
AND NOW? I WON'T STAND THAT...
NOT NOW!
BOOM
BONK
I'M BRING-ING YOUR COF-FEE.
!
THAT MAY WORK!
DOROTHY, WE'RE IN GRE AT DANGER...
UGH..!!
USUALLY YOU GET ANGRY BECAUSE I BRING IT TOO LATE

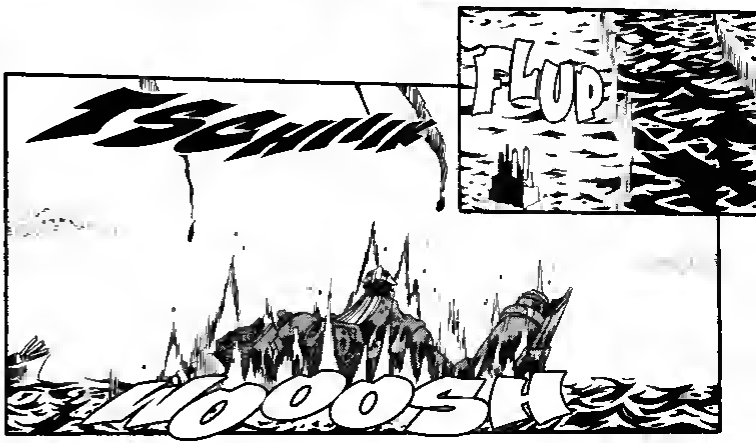
GULEEN
WAIT A MINUTE, SIR
YES, SIR
EXACT LY!
DR?
NORMAN, OPTION DR!
WOOSH
ISCHING
POSH

A DRILL ?
GATSCHING
GLUB
WOOSH
I'M SURE THIS THING WORKS AS A MIXER AS WELL!
DWELL


WAVER?
ZAP
JUST LIKE I THOUGHT...
THE LITTLE SHIPS ARE WAVERING...
WOOOSH
BUT THE BIG MAIN SHIP STILL REMAINS CALM.
I FOUND YOU!
WAVER.
WITH THIS, HE'LL ONLY MAKE THE SHIPS...

BABOOM


THE COFFEE IS COLD.
THE MIST AND THE GHOST SHIPS ARE GONE.
THAT'S IT. WE MADE IT.


FLUP
TSCHIIK
WOOOSH

IN THIS CITY, THERE IS NO KATHY JENKINS.
JUST LIKE I THOUGHT..
BUT 30 YEARS AGO THERE WAS A WOMAN WITH THAT NAME LIVING HERE...
STRANGE THING.
WHO WAS THIS WOMAN THEN?
SHE AND THE CREW DISAPPEARED COMPLETELY ...
AFTER THAT INCIDENT.
THE CONTROLLING SYSTEM OF THE SHIPS IS MORE THAN 40 YEARS OLD..

NO, DO YOU KNOW IT?
HAVE YOU ALSO READ WHY SHE APPEARED HERE?
I READ THE NEWS.
THE GHOST SHIPS WERE PROGRAMMED TO PATROL IN A CERTAIN SEA AREA.
I'M TAKING THE BILL... WELL?
THERE ISN'T ANY SHIP THAT RETURNED FROM THAT PLACE...
THE FISHER-MEN CALL THIS AREA "THE GATE OF GHOSTS".

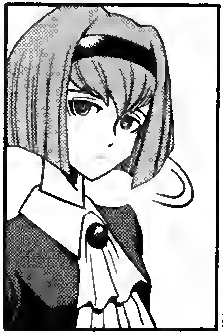
I'LL LOOK FOR IT.
WHO? AND WHY?
TONK
REACTI-VATED THE GHOST SHIPS.
SOME-BODY ...
WHAT ?
I THINK ...
PANIK
ENOUGH FOR TODAY.
THIS WOMAN.
I THINK I KNOW WHO IS BEHIND ...
AH, NO-THING ...

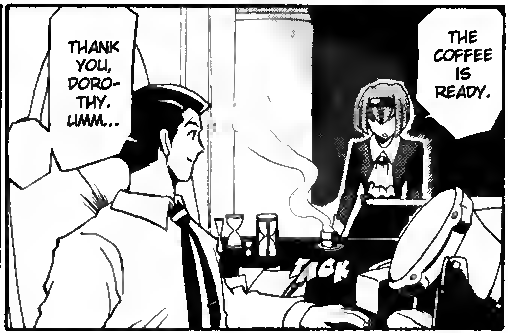
I WONDER WHERE SHE IS NOW...
ARE THESE FOR ME, LITTLE GIRL?
nod
FAP
...
WHO DID YOU GET THEM FROM?
YES, HERE, FOR YOU, UNCLE.

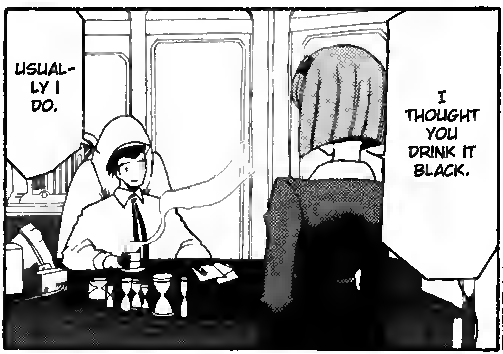
FROM A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN. SHE SAID SHE IS A FAN.
HMM, I'D LIKE TO SEE HER AGAIN. THANK YOU.
OH!
TO ROGER SMITH...
INCLUDED, THE PAYMENT FOR YOUR SERVICES: 300 000 DOLLAR. ANGEL.
ANGEL ...

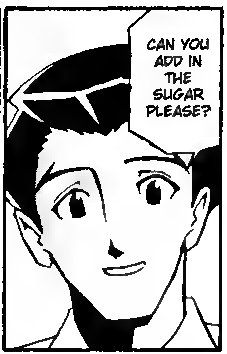
OKAY, LET'S GO.
BUT WHY DID YOU PAY HIM?
THANKS TO HIM WE WERE ABLE TO GET THE MEMORY FILES OF THE SHIP.
TOO BAD THE SHIP GOT DESTROYED BY MEGA-DEUS.
YOU CAN'T HAVE EVERY-THING IN LIFE, RIGHT?
YES.

SEE YOU ...
RO-GER SMITH.




THANK YOU, DORO-THY. UMM...
THE COFFEE IS READY.
CLACK


USUAL-LY I DO.
I THOUGHT YOU DRINK IT BLACK.


CAN YOU ADD IN THE SUGAR PLEASE?

I WOULD NOT HAVE HAD THE IDEA WITH THE DRILL.
TING
WITH-OUT DORO-THY'S COF-FEE...
TING LING
GOOD.
START-ING TOMOR-ROW I'LL PUT MILK AND SUGAR IN YOUR COFFEE.
GLUB
YUCK! TOO SUGA RY.
UH, DOROTHY ...
PLEA-SE NOT!

THE BIG O

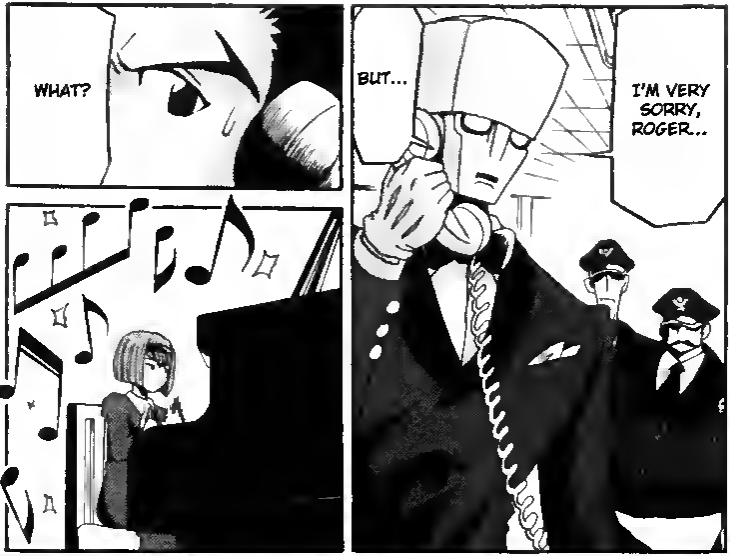
STORY: HAJIME YADATE
ARTWORK: HITOSHI ARIGA

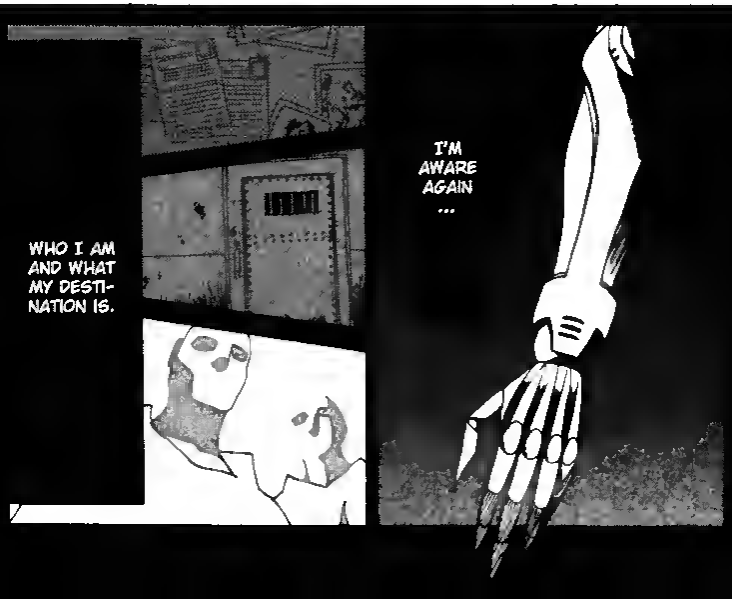
CHAPTER 6
NO NAMES NO MEMORIES NO FUTURE

I KNOW THAT I STILL HAVE A TASK TO ACCOMPLISH.
THIS CITY IS DEAD. FOR 40 YEARS NOW...
PHHH
EVEN THE SUN HASN'T BEEN SHINING.
TADAAAN

TO R. INSTRO'S MELODIC PIANO.
DURING MY TIME IN THE MILITARY POLICE I LISTENED WITH DELIGHT...
...A TERRIBLE ROW.
COMPARED TO THAT DOROTHY'S PLAYINGS IS NOTHING MORE THAN..
BY R. INSTRO.
FORTUNATELY SHE'LL GET PIANO LESSONS VERY SOON...

IS IT FATE THAT ...
I REMEMBER EVERYTHING NOW... AFTER SUCH A LONG TIME?
WHAT? YOU CAN'T COME TODAY?
WHEN WILL IT BE BETTER?
IT'S QUITE LATE FOR TELLING ME THIS!


WHAT?
BUT...
I'M VERY SORRY, ROGER...


WHO I AM AND WHAT MY DESTI-NATION IS.
I'M AWARE AGAIN ...

WHY CAN'T INSTRO COME?
RO-GER ?
INSTRO HAS BEEN ARRES-TED...
FOR SUSPI-CION OF MUR-DER.
BUT WHY?
I DON'T KNOW! INSTRO IS A PIANIST AND NOT A MUR-DERER.

I JUST ASKED.
WHY ARE YOU GETTING ANGRY?
NO, THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT!
UHG
CAN'T A PIANIST BE A MURDERER?
THE CAR IS READY, SIR.
AN OLD FRIEND OF MASTER ROGER.
IN-STRO IS...
THAT'S NOT A REASON FOR GETTING THAT ANGRY.

RECENTLY, A MYSTERIOUS SERIES OF MURDER CASES ...
HAS BEEN KEEPING THE MILITARY POLICE ON ITS TOES
KEEP OU

AND INSTRO IS THEIR MAIN SUSPECT.
HM.
I WAS ON MY WAY TO WORK AT THAT TIME.
WITH THIS ROBOT ARM, HE...
HE IS IT!
WELL... INSTRO IS AN ANDROID ...
AND THE MOTIVE IS MISSING TOO.
THERE ISN'T ANY TANGIBLE EVIDENCE, IS THERE?

BUT NOTHING MORE.
AN INTER-ESTING THEORY ...
SOMEBODY COULD HAVE MANIPULATED HIS MEMORY. HIS OWN FREE WILL WOULD BE TURNED OFF THEN.
TAG
A HUMAN ?
THE MUR-DERER IS HUMAN.

TSCHING
I ... REMEM-BER ...

I CAN SEE CLEAR-LY...
OH MY GOD!
!!
EXCUSE ME, WE HEARD A SUSPI-CIOUS PERSON ...
IS AROUND HERE ...
WHERE IS INSTRO ?
ANOTHER VICTIM?
WHAT ?

TSUZUKU
I KNOW.. WHO I AM..
AND WHAT I HAVE TO DO.

MAJOR DUSTON!
HE WAS HERE, THE WHOLE TIME!
HE'LL STAY ARRESTED UNTIL HIS INNOCENCE IS PROVEN.
PERHAPS HE HAS ANOTHER ACCOMPLICE.
THAT MEANS HE'S INNOCENT!
THIS IS A MURDER AND NOT A NEGOTIATING CASE.
BY THE WAY ...

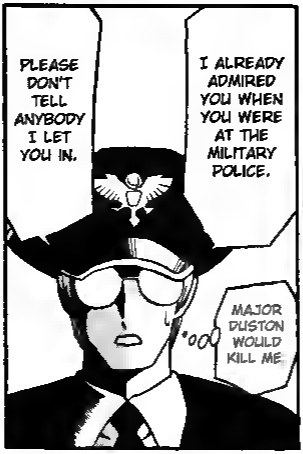
I'M SORRY I COULDN'T HELP YOU.
DON'T MIND THAT, ROGER ...
JUST KEEP THAT IN MIND.
YOUR COMPASSION MAKES ME...
VERY HAPPY.
BWEEP, BWEEP, BWEEP!

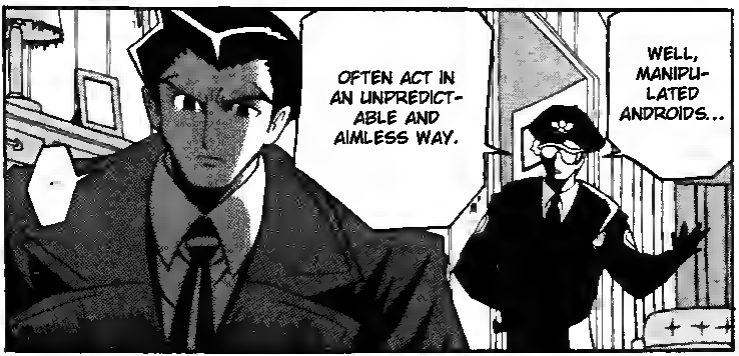
NEVERTHELESS, THEIR RIGHTS REMAIN RESTRICTED.
IN PARADIGM CITY, AN ANDROID WITH A PERSONALITY...
CAN EVEN RECEIVE CIVIL RIGHTS.
ANDROIDS CAN BE DESTROYED JUST BECAUSE OF SUSPICION.
IF THE REAL MURDERER CAN'T BE FOUND...
INSTRO WILL BE DESTROYED TOO.

I CONSIDER MYSELF AS HIS FRIEND...
THAT'S WHY IT'S MY DUTY TO PROVE HIS INNOCENCE.
I AM SCARED, ROGER.
ALL VICTIMS WERE MY AGE.
THE OLDER HABITANTS OF THE CITY CAN'T REMEMBER THEIR PAST.
HMM.
THEY CAN'T REMEMBER WHAT WAS 40 YEARS AGO.

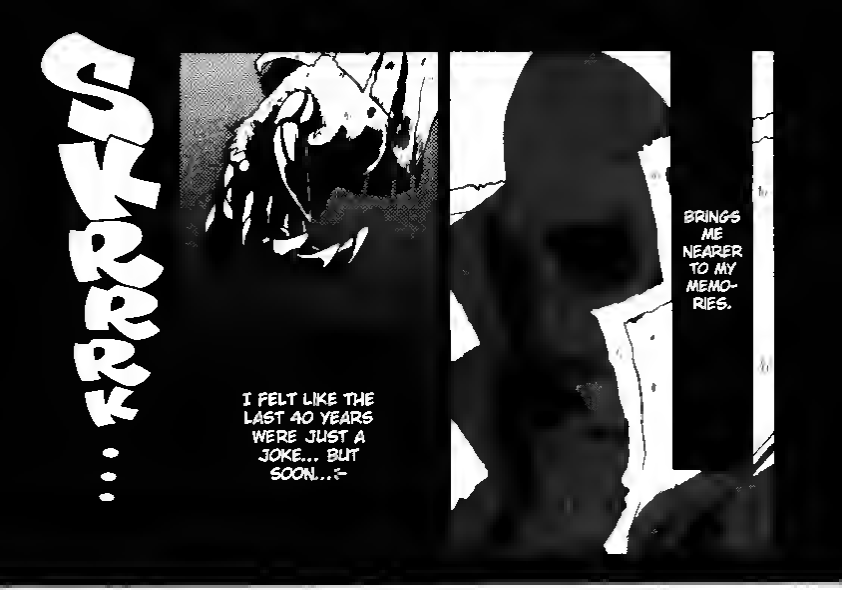
DON'T KNOW AT ALL...
WHILE HIS VICTIMS ...
THAT THEIR LIFE IS IN DANGER.
HIS TASK AGAIN.
BUT THE KILLER SEEMS TO REMEMBER...
HE HAS TO BE VERY OLD...
BUT THAT DOESN'T KEEP HIM FROM KILLING.
THIS KILLER IS LIKE A GHOST THAT REMEMBERS HIS PAST...

I WILL KEEP SILENT.
WHAT IS THIS?


PLEASE DON'T TELL ANYBODY I LET YOU IN.
I ALREADY ADMIRED YOU WHEN YOU WERE AT THE MILITARY POLICE.
MAJOR DUSTON WOULD KILL ME.


OFTEN ACT IN AN UNPREDICT-ABLE AND AIMLESS WAY.
WELL, MANIPU-LATED ANDROIDS...

THAT WASN'T A MANIPULATED ANDROID.
THESE ATTACKS WERE VERY CONSIDERED AND EXACTLY HIT THEIR AIM.
AIMLESS?
EVERY MAN I'VE KILLED...

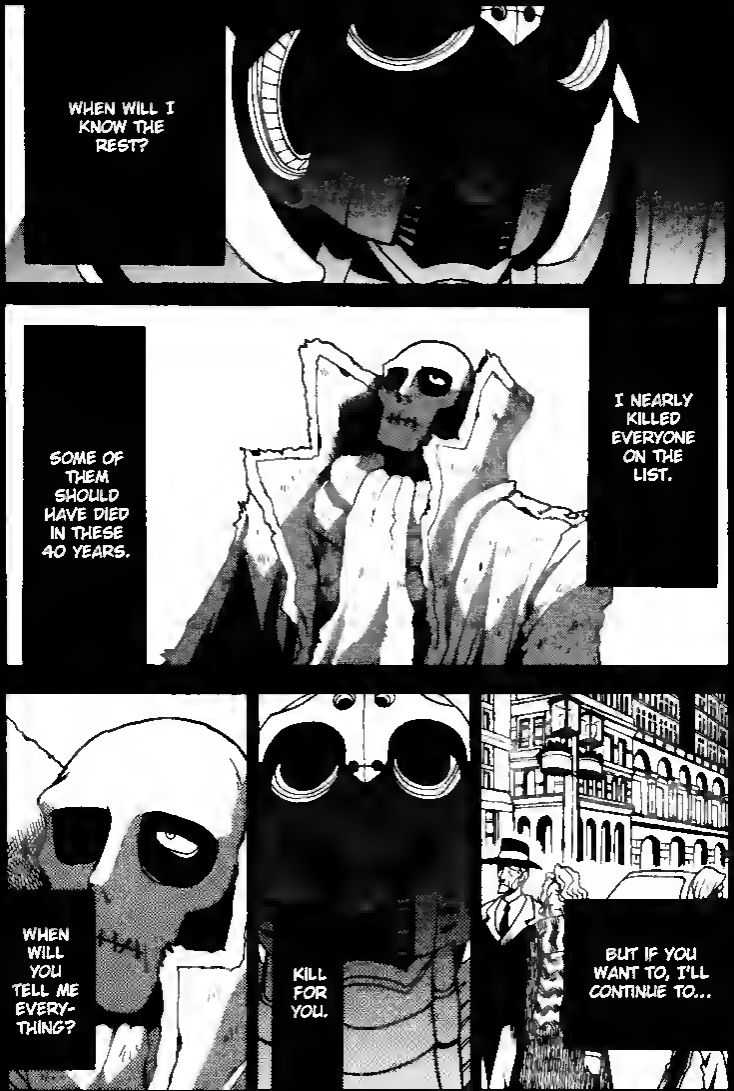

...KRRKUS
I FELT LIKE THE LAST 40 YEARS WERE JUST A JOKE... BUT SOON...
BRINGS ME NEARER TO MY MEMO-RIES.

AND WE FOUND OIL TRACES.
THE MURDERER'S WEAPON IS A STEEL ARM...

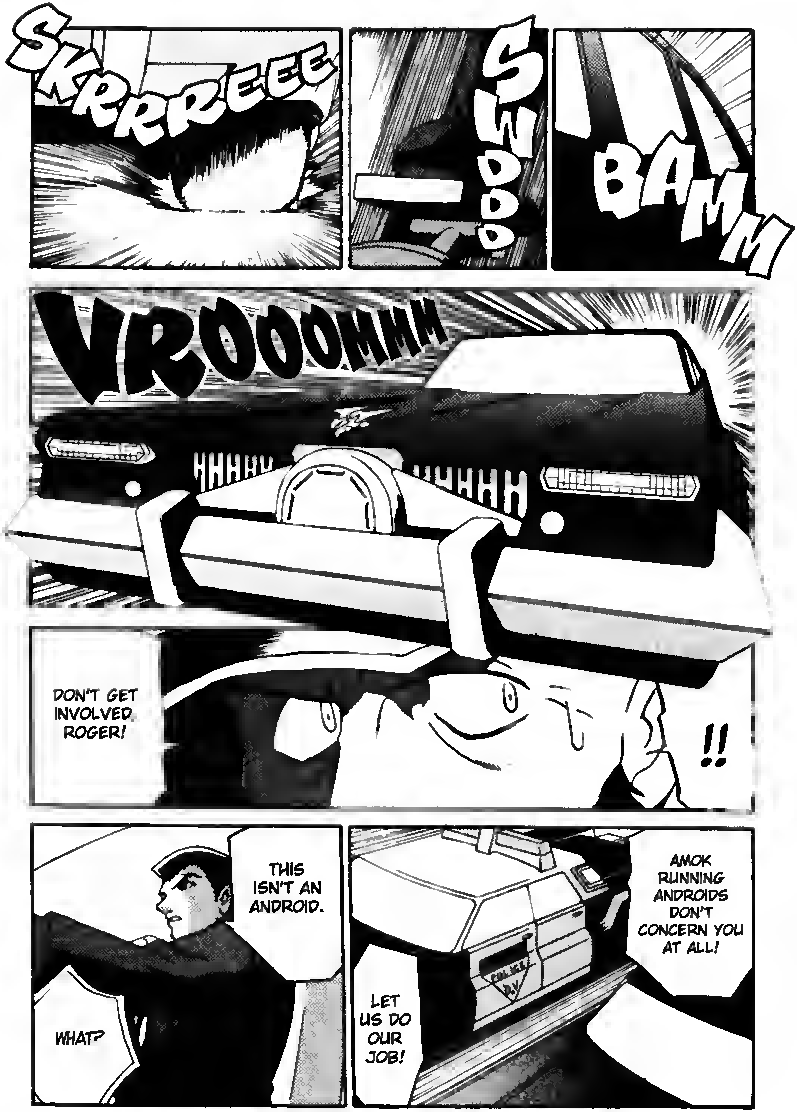
WE WON'T AD-VANCE LIKE THIS!
GIVE ME AT LEAST A CLUE!
DAMM

WELL, A HUMAN IS COM-PLETE-LY IMPOS-SIBLE.
SO ONLY AN ANDROID AS A MURDER IS IN QUES-TION?

I CAN REMEMBER SO MUCH....
GUOOO
BUT I DON'T REMEMBER...
MY NAME...
NOR YOU, MY MUTE FRIEND...

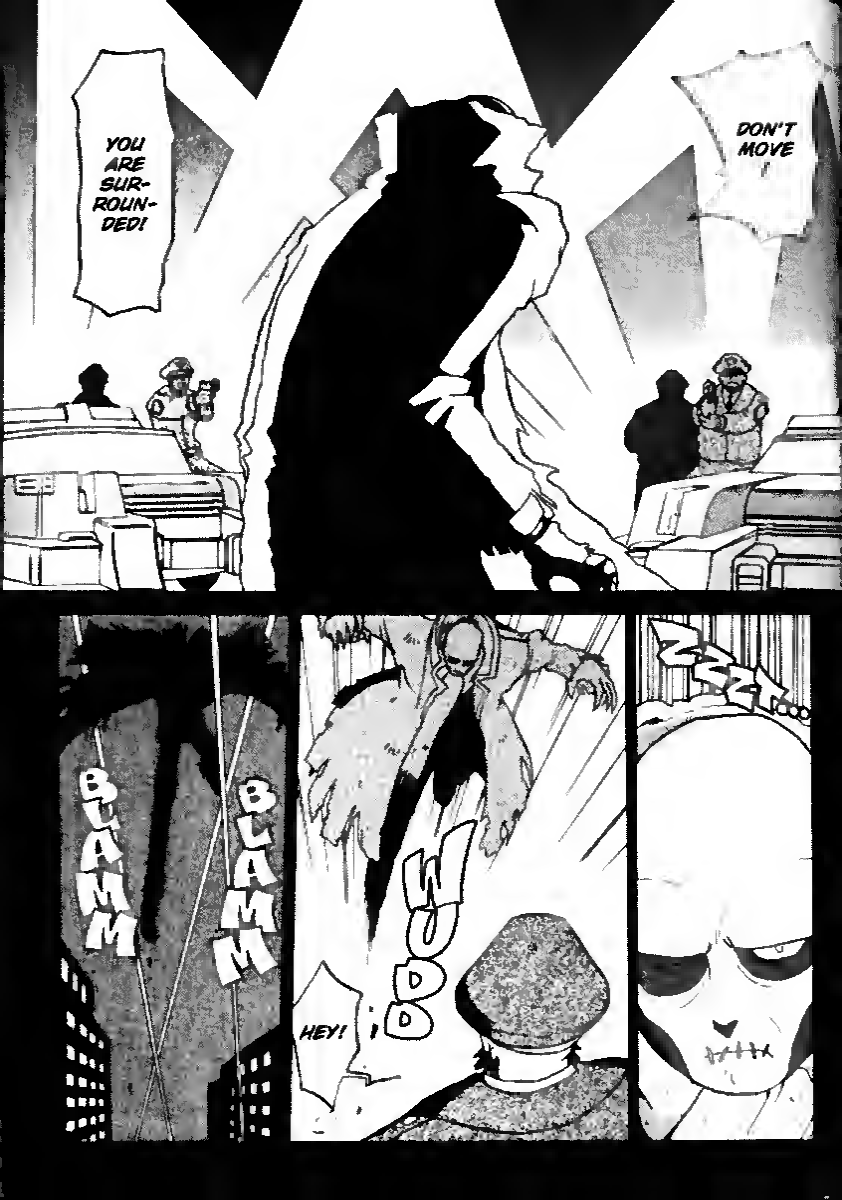

WHEN WILL I KNOW THE REST?
I NEARLY KILLED EVERYONE ON THE LIST.
SOME OF THEM SHOULD HAVE DIED IN THESE 40 YEARS.
WHEN WILL YOU TELL ME EVERY-THING?
KILL FOR YOU.
BUT IF YOU WANT TO, I'LL CONTINUE TO...

I WANT MY PAST BACK...
BEFORE I DIE!
THIS CITY THINKS THAT I'M DEAD ANYWAY.
SKREEEE
THERE! FOLLOW HIM!
BWEEP BWEEP BWEEP


SKRRREEE
SWOOO
BAMM
VROOOHHH
HHHHH
HHHHH
DON'T GET INVOLVED ROGER!
!!
THIS ISN'T AN ANDROID.
WHAT?
AMOK RUNNING ANDROIDS DON'T CONCERN YOU AT ALL!
LET US DO OUR JOB!

IF I DELIVER ENOUGH EVIDENCE THE CASE...
HAS TO BE RECONSIDERED?
YES, BUT IT LOOKS LIKE THE EXECUTION DAY IS...
ALREADY SCHEDULED.
WHAT?
THE APPOINTED DATE...
IS TOMORROW.
ALTHOUGH THE REAL MURDERER...
IS STILL FREE?
ALL EVIDENCE IS AGAINST INSTRO!
YOU CAN'T DO THAT!
THERE ... AHEAD OF US!

!!
SHING
SHING
SHING
SKRRRREEE
A HUMAN CAN'T RUN THAT FAST...


YOU ARE SURROUNDED!
DON'T MOVE!
BLAM
BLAM
WUDD
HEY!
ZZZT...

IRAA
ASH!
SUDD
ZWOSH
AAAH!
OKAY, IT'S NOT A HUMAN...
FREEZE!
F..
F...

HA HA
NOT AN ANDROID EITHER!
BUT...
SUDD
SSUSH
SWISH
RO-GER!

ZACK
!!
TING
WUDD
MAJOR DUSTON!
QUICK!
FOLLOW HIM!
DON'T LET HIM SLIP AWAY!

WON'T KILL PEOPLE ANYMORE !
THIS ANDROID ...
WE'LL GET HIM SOON!
WAPP

VEEEE
RROOO
WHAT ?
THAT'S UNBE-LIEV-ABLE...
BIG O...

ZING
BRRRMB
MA-JOR!
WHAT IS IT?
SHOOT!
RRMB
MEGA-DEUS...
GRR!!
I WON'T LET IT...
END LIKE THAT.
RRRRMMBB

I STILL DON'T HAVE MY MEMORY BACK.
GWNNN
I WON'T LET YOU GO!

HE'S REALLY FAST
I WON'T CATCH HIM LIKE THAT...
WHOOSH
WELL THEN!
WHAT?
WHAT'S HAPPENING THERE?
SUUUSH!

LOOKS LIKE SOMEBODY LEFT MEGADEUS...
CAN YOU SEE ANYTHING?
...
NO, SIR, HE'S TOO FAR AWAY!
SOON
THAT'S MY LAST CHANCE...
TO PROVE INSTRO'S INNOCENCE.

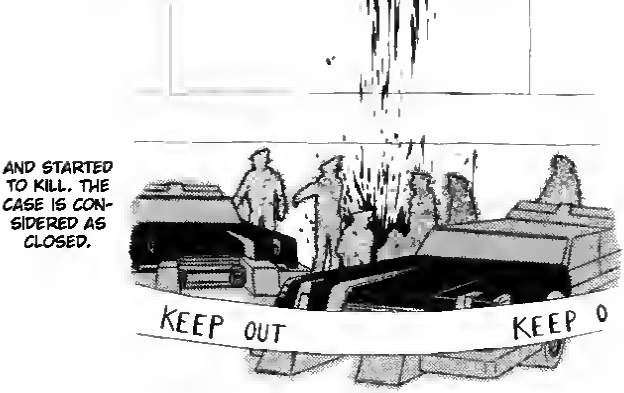
YOU WERE ABLE TO REMEMBER YOUR PAST...
BUT YOUR VICTIMS FORGOT EVERY-THING!
WHAT IS THIS GUY TALKING ABOUT?
WHY DO YOU TRY TO HOLD ON TO YOUR PAST...
THAT DES-PERATELY?
BE-CAUSE I'M MISSING IT...
WHAT ?

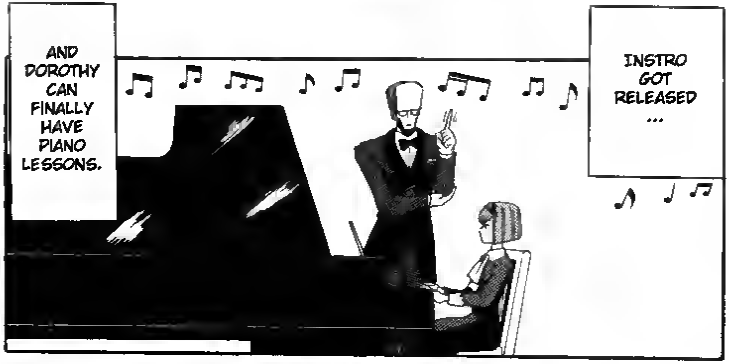
THIS THING ...
NEVER-MIND THE PAST!
STOP KILLING!
THIS THING IS CON-TROLLED BY A MAN!
!!

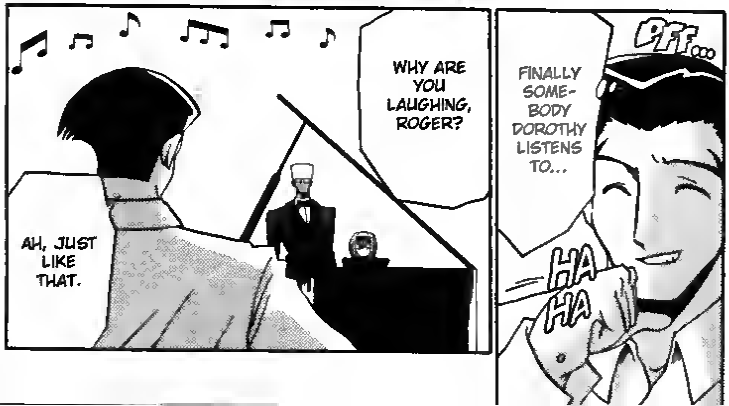
THIS CITY... I THOUGHT IT'S DEAD...
BUT... IT'S FULL OF LIVE!
EVEN WITHOUT THE MEMORY OF THE PAST...
PFFT...
SO ALL MY EFFORTS HAVE BEEN FUTILE.

I HAVEN'T LAUGHED ...
...LIKE THAT IN 40 YEARS!
UAHAHAHA
WAHAHAHAHAHA
AHAHAHAHI

ANYMORE AS 40 YEARS AGO.
THE BLOOD I'VE SHED ISN'T THE SAME...
!
!
HOW COULD I LET IT BE LIKE THIS?
LATER MAJOR DUSTON TOLD ME THAT THE MURDERER WAS A CYBORG. A CREATURE HALF HUMAN, HALF ANDROID -, CREATED BY A FORGOTTEN TECHNOLOGY...

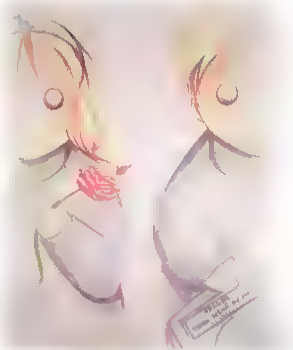

AND STARTED TO KILL. THE CASE IS CONSIDERED AS CLOSED.
KEEP OUT
KEEP O
THE MILITARY POLICE THINKS HE REMEMBERED HIS OLD IDENTITY AS A PROFESSIONAL KILLER...


AND DOROTHY CAN FINALLY HAVE PIANO LESSONS.
INSTRO GOT RELEASED ...


WHY ARE YOU LAUGHING, ROGER?
AH, JUST LIKE THAT.
FINALLY SOMEBODY DOROTHY LISTENS TO...
DIFF...
HA HA

WHY ARE HUMANS LAUGHING WITHOUT ANY REASON?
ROGER OFTEN SCOLDS ME AND COMPLAINS...
WITHOUT ANY PARTICULAR REASON.
I WONDER WHY HE LAUGHED BEFORE HE JUMPED...

End of chapter 6



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The Big C u02 c06

SCANS Cleo

TRANSLATION & EDIT Rion

ADDITIONAL EDITS KingFish

PROOFREADING akikaze

QC Milkmaster

An Afternoon Illusions Project

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Big O vO2 cO7 credits

SCANS: Cleo
TRANSLATION & EDITS: Rion
QC: akikaze, hanhana & KingFish

HAPPY NEW YEAR EVERYONE!

Afternoon Illusions
a-illusions.kakyoku.org
#illusions@irc.undernet.org

THE BIG O

STORY: HAJIME YADATE
ARTWORK: HITOSHI ARIGA

CHAPTER 7
DEEP IN THE BLACK FOREST

The boy who wants to know everything.
The boy who doesn't know anything.

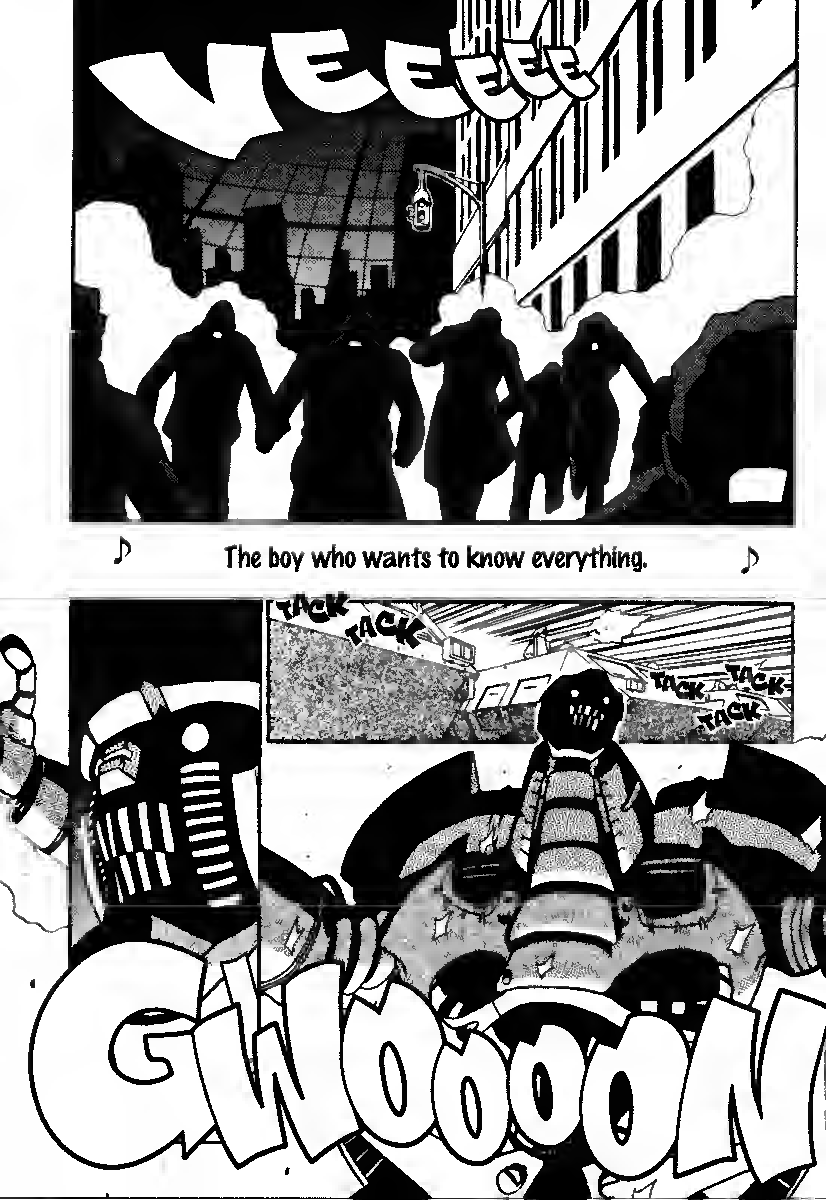
When you grow up, you'll understand,
says the mother.

The boy who wants to know everything immediately.

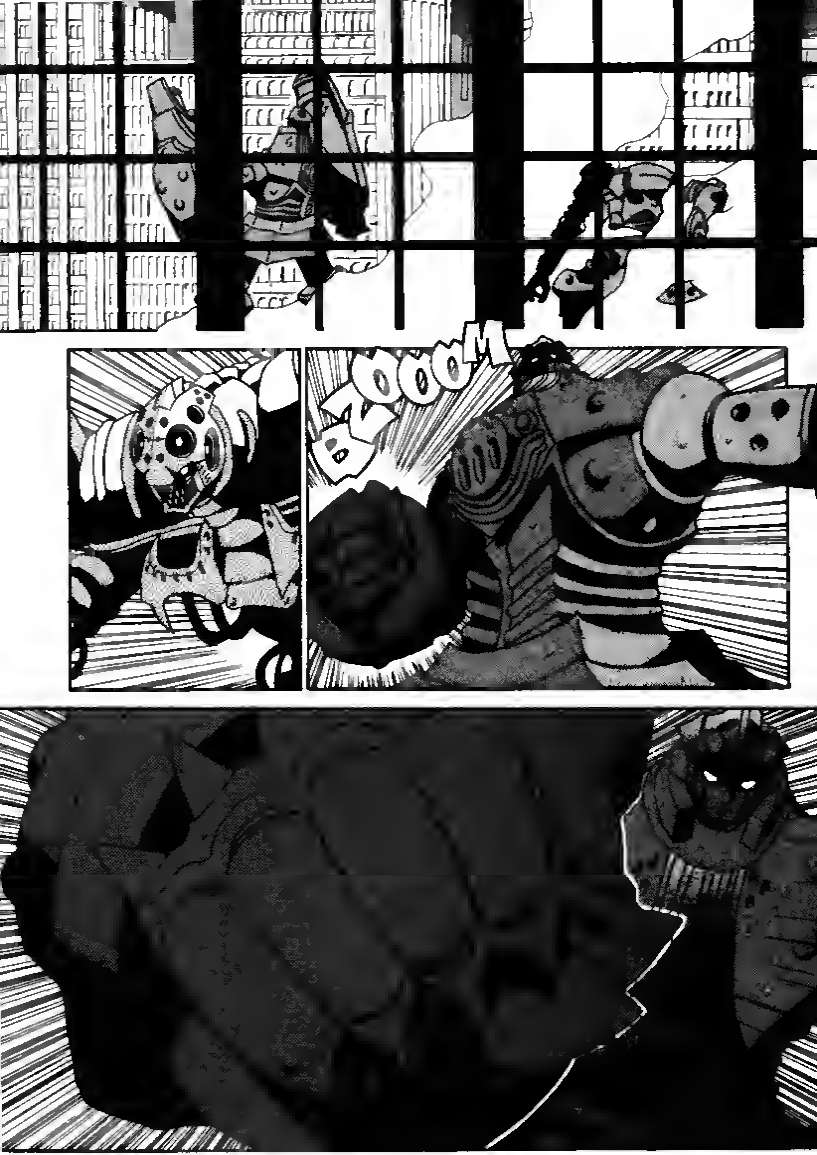
Deep in the black forest
the grandfather who knows everything.

And the boy goes to search for
the grandfather, deep in the black forest.

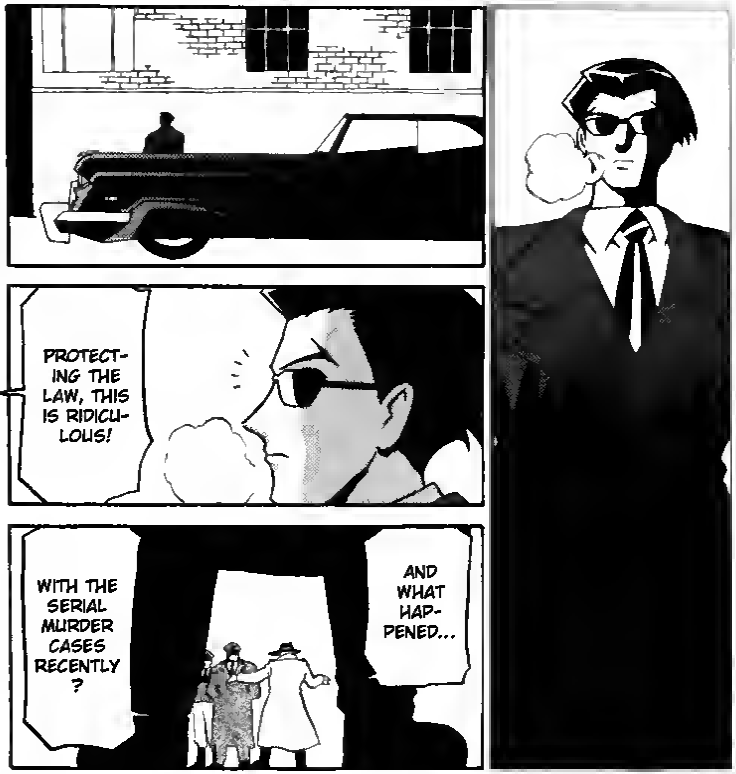
But he can't find the grandfather.
The boy searches, and searches,
until


VEEEEE
♪
The boy who wants to know everything.
♪
TACK
TACK
TACK
TACK
TACK
GWOOOOON

CHAPTER 7: DEEP IN THE BLACK FOREST

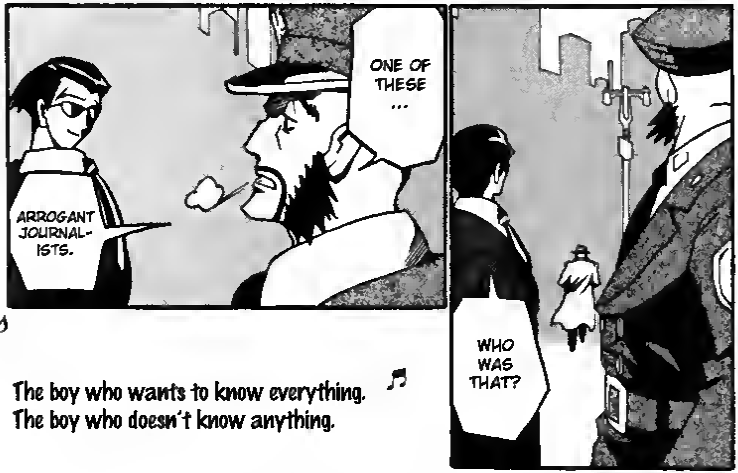

BZOOOM

The boy who wants to know everything.
The boy who doesn't know anything.



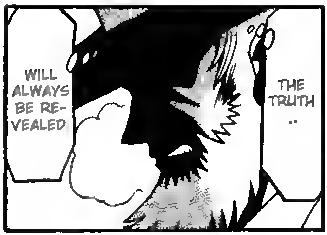
FIRST YOU SAID YOU FOUND A SUSPECT ...
THEN YOU CLAIM THAT THE REAL MURDERER KILLED HIMSELF WHILE ESCAPING!
THIS IS TRUE.
TRUE?
THAT'S SUSPICIOUS!
HOW STUPID DO YOU THINK WE...?
I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU ARE...
BUT YOU'RE KEEPING PEOPLE FROM WORK.
WHILE WE'RE STANDING HERE, A CRIME COULD HAVE HAPPENED SOMEWHERE.
HAVE YOU THOUGHT OF THAT?
PFF.

WHEN WILL YOU DO SOMETHING AGAINST THE NEW MEGA-DELIS?
THIS "ANGEL OF DESTRUCTION"?
YOU AREN'T EVEN CAPABLE TO PROTECT THE CITY...



The boy who wants to know everything.
The boy who doesn't know anything.

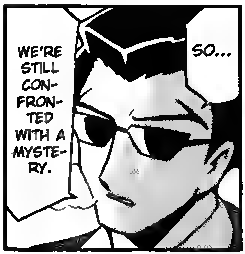
THAT'S WHY WE HAD TO HEAR HIS COM-PLAINTS.
BUT HE WON'T BE ABLE TO WRITE AN ARTICLE ABOUT INSTRO'S CASE.
HE'S MISSING SOME FACTS, ISN'T HE?
BUT I THINK ...
YES.
IN YOUR CASE, I CAN MAKE AN EXCEP-TION.

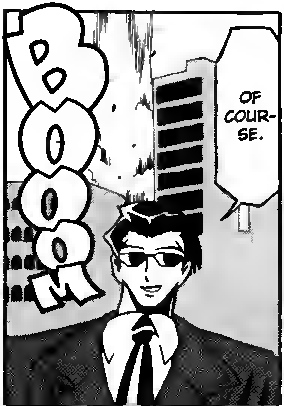


♫

When you grow up, you'll understand, says the mother.

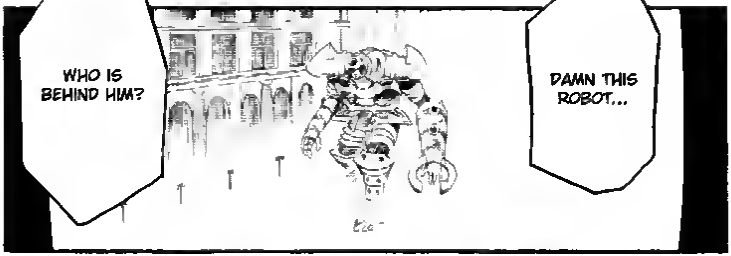
♪





WHAT WAS THAT?
OH NO!
GRRR

NO...
BRRMB
BIG O...


WHO IS BEHIND HIM?
DAMN THIS ROBOT...

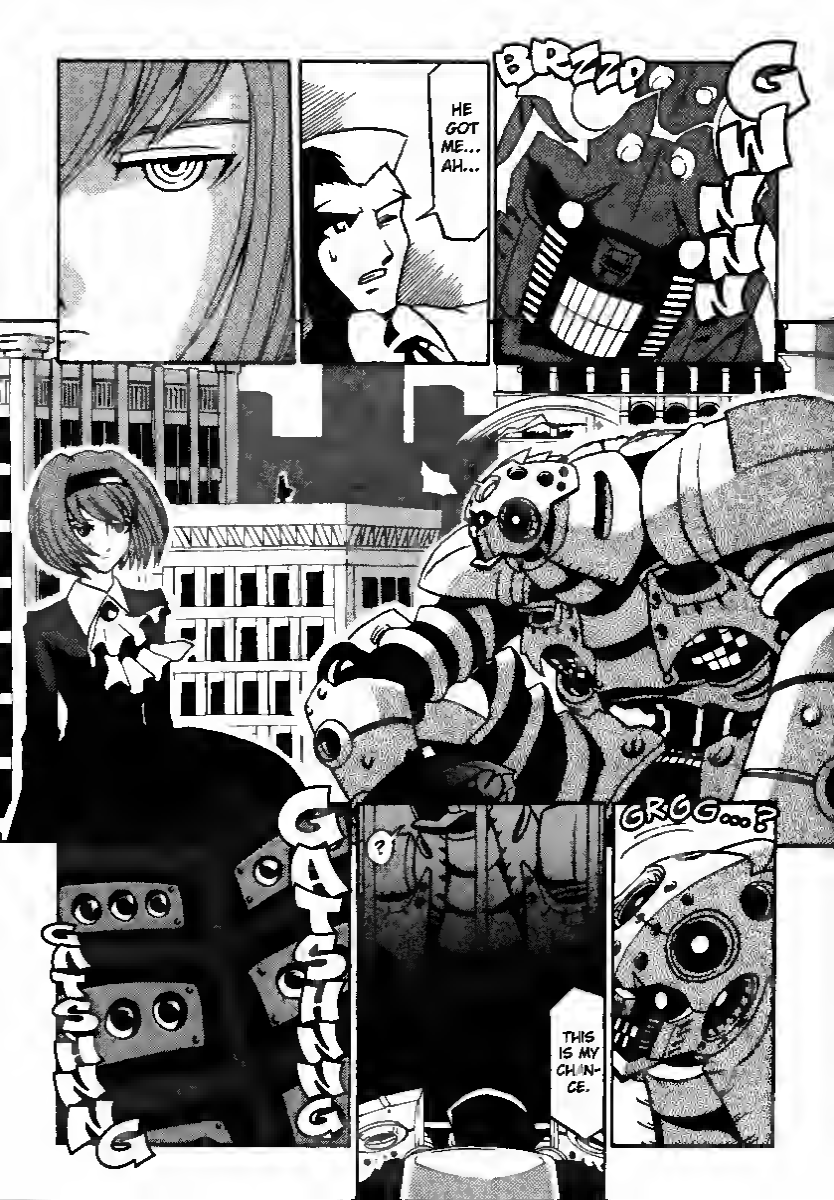
UNFORTUNATELY, I COULDN'T ...
HMM ...
FIND ANYTHING YET.

I HOPE THIS WILL CHANGE SOON.
REALLY?

I KNEW IT...
I DON'T KNOW YOUR REASONS...
BUT YOU DAMAGED ENOUGH ALREADY!
GSHNNKK
SHUUU
BRRRN
I CAN DO THAT TOO!
BZZOOD
ZZZDD

SHKAH
RRRMBB
BRZZZ
NNN
BZOD
WHIP
WHAT?
WUD
WOOSH
GWHOOO

ZOOSH
GAZING
SHUSH
AH!
UNBE-
LIEV-
ABLE.
WE CAN'T
DO ANY-
THING BUT
WATCH...
MA-
JOR
...
WHAT
THE HELL
IS HE
THINK-
ING?


HE GOT ME... AH...
BRZZD
GWNNN
GRRR

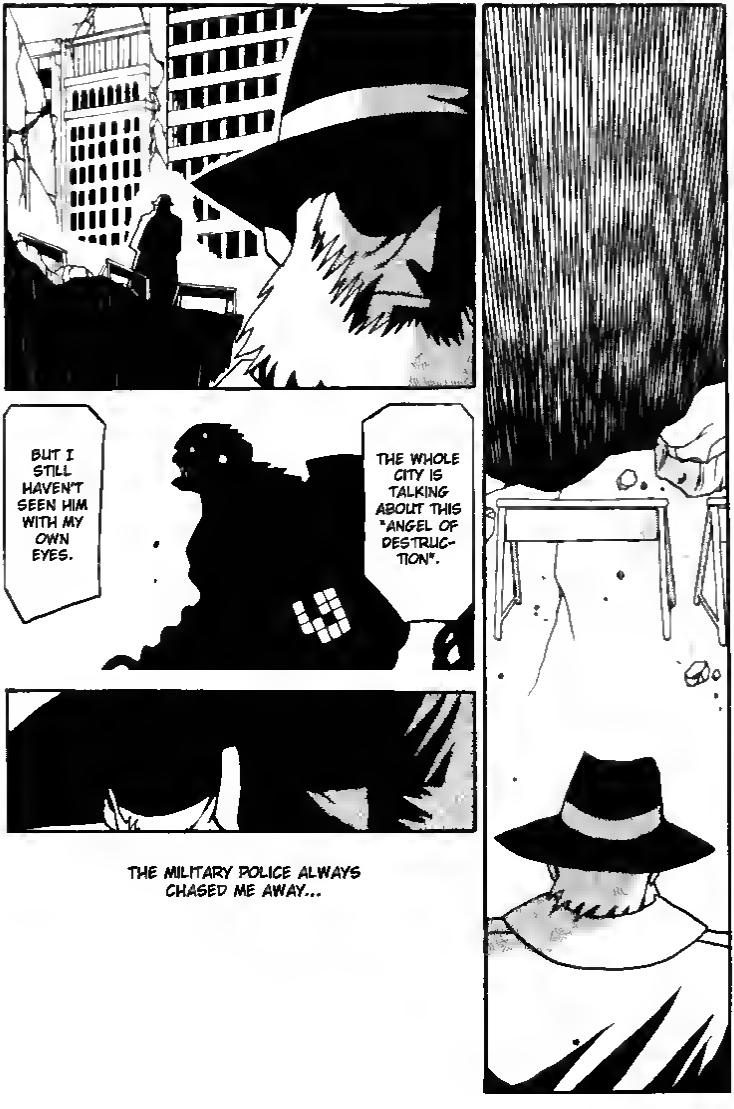
BODOMM
DOSH
DAMN !
DEMM
SWEP
!!
HE'S FLEE-ING...

BOOM
I WON'T LET YOU GO!
WHAT A MESS...
IS IT OVER?
NO, THE SITUATION IS STILL DANGEROUS.

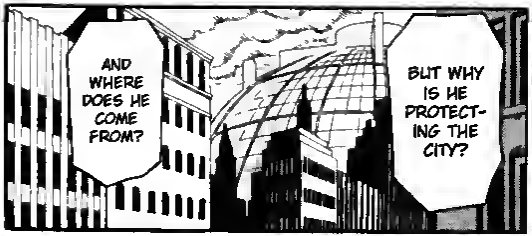
DAMN, THEY'RE GONE.
DAMN MIST.
KUKU KUKU
I CAN'T SEE ANY-THING...
THE TRUTH OF THIS CASE.
I HAVE TO KNOW ...
I WONDER WHAT HE WANTS.
AS IF EARTH HAS SUCKED HIM IN.
AND THEN HE DISAP-PEARED SUD-DENLY?

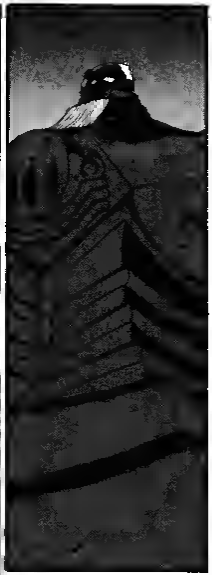
IF HE CONTINUES LIKE THAT,
HE'LL DESTROY THE WHOLE CITY.
HE'S LOOKING FOR SOMETHING.
LOOKING FOR.. WHAT?
I DON'T KNOW.
?
OKAY, LET'S PRETEND HE REALLY SEARCHES FOR SOMETHING...
THEN HIS BEHAVIOR TILL NOW DOESN'T LOOK LIKE THAT AT ALL.
THAT'S TRUE.
THAT'S TRUE ...?
BUT ...
I CAN FEEL IT.

HE AGAIN ..
I WOULD BE SURPRISED ...
IF YOU GAVE ME AN ANSWER.
DID HE ASK YOU?
WELL...
WHAT DID HE WANT ?


THE WHOLE CITY IS TALKING ABOUT THIS "ANGEL OF DESTRUCTION".
BUT I STILL HAVEN'T SEEN HIM WITH MY OWN EYES.
THE MILITARY POLICE ALWAYS CHASED ME AWAY...

WITHOUT THE BLACK MEGADEUS, THIS CITY WOULD BE DEAD.
WHY DO WE NEED THE MILITARY POLICE ANYWAY?

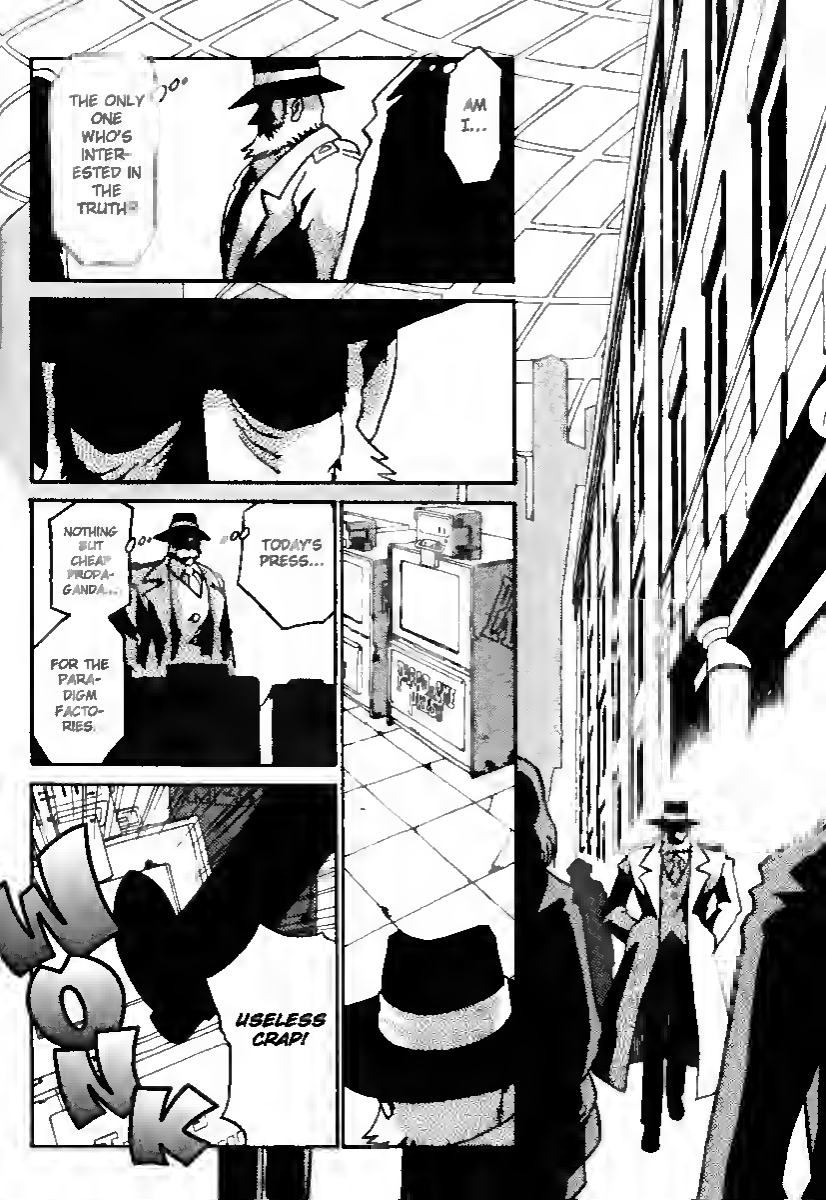

AND WHERE DOES HE COME FROM?
BUT WHY IS HE PROTECTING THE CITY?



THE UNDER-GROUND...
GULP
EVERY-ONE IS SCARED BY THE UNDER-GROUND OF THIS CITY.
THEY BOTH DISAP-PEARED THERE.
PERHAPS I'LL FIND THE TRUTH THERE.
BUT WHO KNOWS...

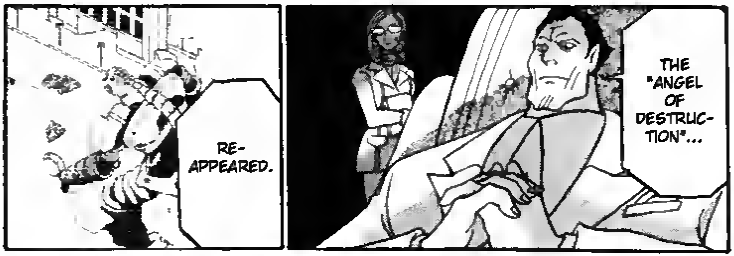
JUST HOW CAN I GET THERE?
HEY, WHAT ARE YOU DOING THERE?
HM?
WITHOUT A GOOD EQUIPMENT IT'S USELESS.
YOU AGAIN.
TSK TSK
LOOKS LIKE YOU'LL NEVER GIVE UP.
THE MAJOR HAS ORDERED ...
WHAT A PIG-HEAD
DEDICATED JOURNALIST.
A TRULY ...

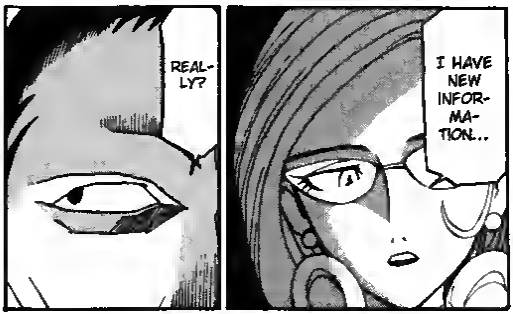
ACTUALLY HE JUST DOES HIS JOB.
VROOOH
IT'S DIFFICULT TO FIND THE TRUTH.
IN THIS CITY...
MASTER ROGER, DINNER IS...
WHAT SHALL I DO WITH THIS?
I'M ON MY WAY.
I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO HIS ARTICLE.
I JUST WONDER IF THOSE UP THERE WILL APPROVE IT.

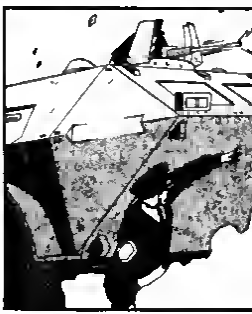

THE ONLY ONE WHO'S INTER-ESTED IN THE TRUTH
AM I...
NOTHING BUT CHEAP PROPA-GANDA...
TODAY'S PRESS...
FOR THE PARA-DIGM FACTO-RIES.
WONK
USELESS CRAP!

THE TRUTH OF THIS CITY!
SOMEBODY HAS TO TELL THESE PEOPLE THE TRUTH!
DO YOU WANT THEM TO CONTINUE TO FOOL YOU?
EVERY-ONE IS DECEIV-ING YOU!
I WON'T LET IT BE LIKE THAT.
I DON'T WANT THIS.

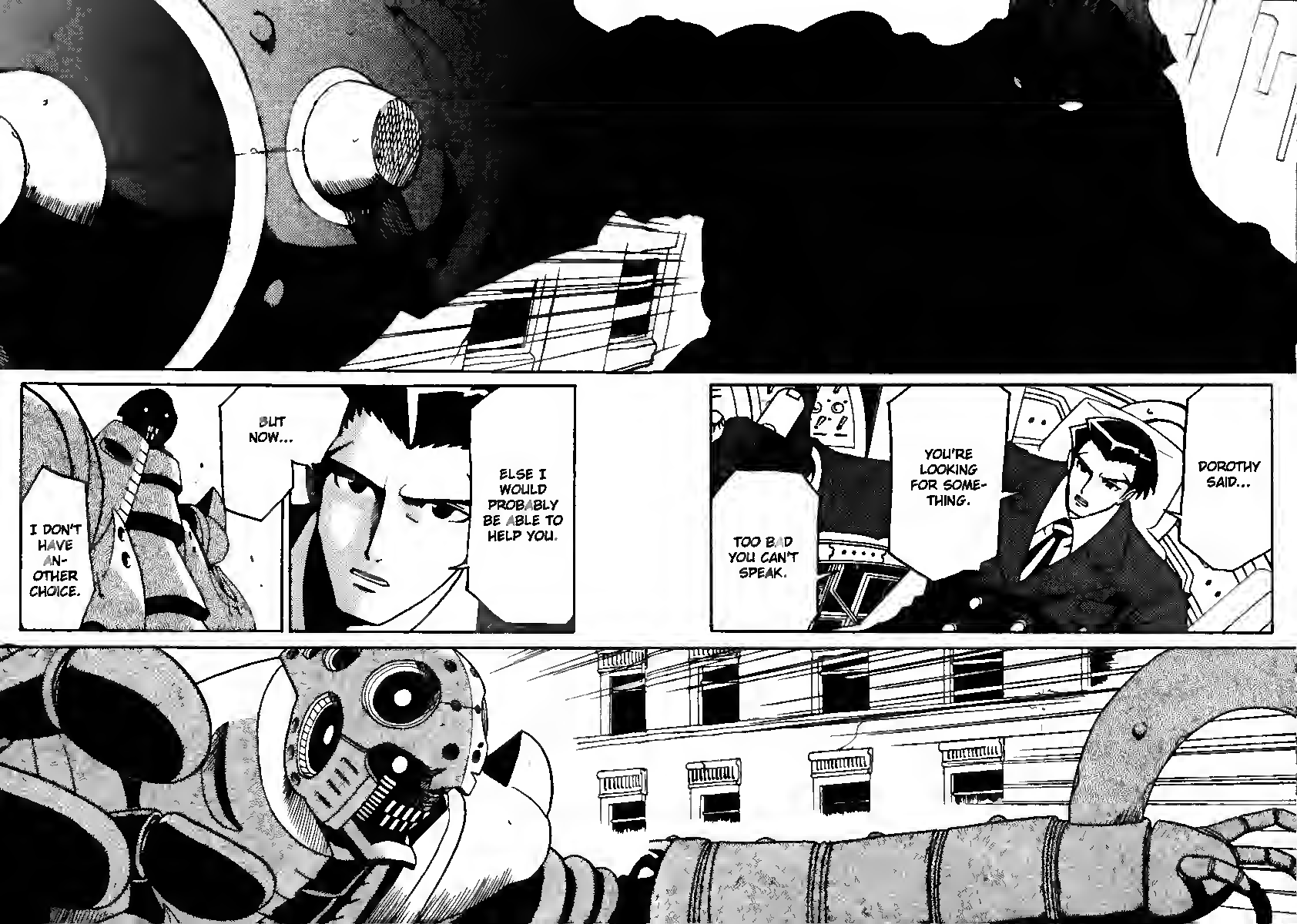
The boy who wants to know everything.







GOOOO
NOOO
ACTION!


DOROTHY SAID...
YOU'RE LOOKING FOR SOMETHING.
TOO BAD YOU CAN'T SPEAK.
ELSE I WOULD PROBABLY BE ABLE TO HELP YOU.
BUT NOW...
I DON'T HAVE ANOTHER CHOICE.

GAKKING
...!!
GRNGG
FSHHH

WAPP
BWOOSH
DWOMM
NO!

WOOO

GANONNING

YEAH!

I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU WERE LOOKING FOR...
WAH!
BUT YOUR SEARCH IS OVER NOW.
FSHHH

AND AGAIN WE WERE NOT...
ABLE TO DO ANY-THING.
YEAH ...
HE DEFEATED HIM!
MAJOR !
HM?
A HUMAN?

♫ The boy who wants to know everything.
The boy who doesn't know anything.

When you grow up, you'll understand,
says the mother.

The boy who wants to know everything immediately. ♪

I RE-MEM-BER...
I WAS HERE ONCE...
DURING THE RESEARCH FOR THE SERIAL MURDERER
HUFF HUFF HUFF
AND I DIS-COV-ERED...

THE "ANGEL OF DESTRUC-TION".
HOW COULD I HAVE FORGOT TEN EVERY-THING?
WHAT WAS THAT SONG OF MY CHILD-HOOD LIKE AGAIN?
DRAW
THE TRUTH ABOUT MYSELF...
HA, HA, HA... AT LEAST I KNOW NOW...
DOWN

ZZZADD
ZZZP BRZZP
BAKOOM
THE BOY WHO WANTS TO KNOW EVERYTHING.
GOOOOO
THE BOY WHO DOESN'T KNOW ANYTHING.

GWOOOO
OF ALL PEOPLE, WHY WAS IT HIM?
GWOOOOOO
The boy who wants to know everything.
The boy who doesn't know anything.
When you grow up, you'll understand,
says the mother.
The boy who wants to know everything immediately.
Deep in the black forest
the grandfather who knows everything.
And the boy goes to search for
the grandfather, deep in the black forest.
WHY HIM?

♫

And the boy goes to search for
the grandfather, deep in the black forest.

But he can't find the grandfather.
The boy searches, and searches,
until ♪

MY NAME IS...
THE JOURNALIST MICHAEL SEEBACH IS DEAD.
SCHWARZWALD.